THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS
BENGALURU • SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 15, 2026 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 28 • LATE CITY EDITION

An IAF aircraft during an aerial show at the Emergency Landing Facility (ELF), in Dibrugarh district, Assam. on Saturday | PTI

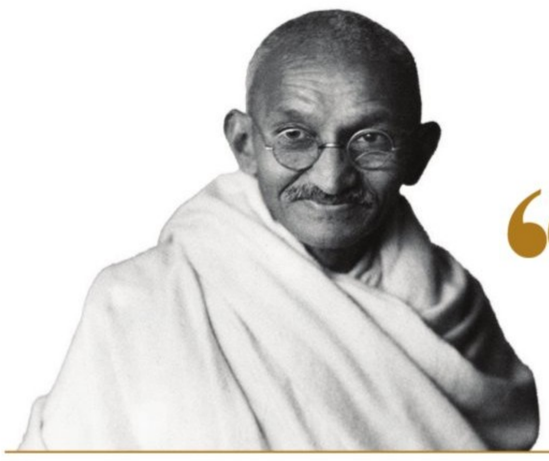
PM's historic landing at Assam highway airstrip

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a historic touchdown at a highway airstrip in Assam on Saturday. An Indian Air Force C-130J aircraft, which took off from the Chabua airfield carrying the Prime Minister, landed at the Emergency Landing Facility on the Moran Bypass in Dibrugarh district. The PM also witnessed an aerial display of fighter jets, transport aircraft and helicopters at Moran P10

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Thousand Days

From Hope to Happiness



"The future depends on what you do today."

Mahatma Gandhiji

Under the noble ideals of **'Antyodaya'** and **'Sarvodaya'** championed by **Mahatma Gandhiji**, the Government of Karnataka, led by Hon'ble Chief Minister **Shri Siddaramaiah** and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister **Shri D K Shivakumar**, marks a significant milestone of 1,000 days in office.

Key Milestones

₹1.16+ Lakh Crore
Allocated so far for the Five Guarantees

2.11+ Lakh
Families Provided with Title Deeds

₹1.5 Lakh Crore
Invested in Bengaluru's Infrastructure Development

₹1.12+ Lakh Crore
Reserved Annually for Public Welfare Schemes

1.37+ Crore
Families are Direct Beneficiaries of Government Schemes

GUARANTEE SARKARA
REBUILDING A NEW KARNATAKA

Development that Delivers.
The Karnataka Model in Action.

Shakthi · Anna Bhagya · Gruha Jyothi · Gruha Lakshmi · Yuva Nidhi

CMofKarnataka https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/

As is enshrined in our constitution, "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

karnataka information

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Sunday:** 15.02.2026 • **Year:** Vishwavasu • **Ayana:** Uththarayana
• **Ritu:** Sishir • **Masa:** Magha • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Thrayodasi 4.24 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Uttharashada 7.28 pm • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm
• **Gulikakala:** 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER MIN 14°C | MAX 31°C
FORECAST Scattered clouds

Sunrise 06.42 am | Sunset 06.25 pm | Moonrise 05.01 am | Moonset 04.37 pm

TRYST WITH PEAKS

Hanumanthrao Kulkarni, a 20-year-old Gadag youth, is playing Sherpa to rural youths to impart them a sense of adventure and awe of the misty mountains

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

THE call of the mountain was irresistible. Hanumanthrao Kulkarni, 20, had his moment of epiphany while he was at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in Uttarakhand in 2023. He was a student of Bachelor of Business Administration and was in Uttarakhand as part of a stint with National Cadet Corps.

Over the last three years Hanumanthrao has been part of four expeditions to the Himalayas. This Gadag youth is now determined to play Sherpa to rural youths and give free mountaineering training to make them scale peaks of success in life.

Hanumanth is taking rural youths to Badami, Chitradurga, Shivamogga and the Western Ghats and training them in the theoretical and practical aspects of mountaineering like map reading, navigation, weather, medicines, mountain hygiene and mountaineering techniques.

Over the last few years, Hanumanth has imparted mountaineering skills to more than 50 youths from rural Gadag. He selected youths from Mundargi and Gadag taluks in the first phase. Hanumanth hails from a modest background. His father, Girish Kulkarni, runs a Xerox shop next to the Gadag Municipal council office. Girish was initially skeptical when Hanumanth first expressed his eagerness to scale mountains. It was an unusual ambition for a Gadag youth.

Girish finally gave his assent but asked Hanumanth to be prepared for challenging conditions, especially freezing temperatures in the range of -10 degree Celsius. In Uttarakhand, Hanumanth met people from across the world, including France, Australia and the US.

Hanumanth has undergone training in search and rescue operations. This will make him part of rescue team with the task of rescuing the climbers who get stuck in the mountains.

Hanumanthrao Kulkarni with his mountaineering team during an expedition in the Himalayas | EXPRESS

Hanumanthrao Kulkarni

The rescue members are given training in C-pulley and Z-pulley to save if anybody is stuck in an ice craft.

The mountaineering crew has to carry equipment with them like dynamic climbing rope, carabiners, Belay device, prusik cords, sling quickdraws, ice screws for ice routes, rock protection, first-aid kit, space blanket and many more. Every team will have two doctors. Others will be given training on how to handle emergency situations.

Hanumanth is preparing to take a team of students from Gadag district to the Himalayas to give them a feel of the mountains. Team members are selected based on their physical fitness---the climb is arduous and will test one's endurance and will power. He is planning to recruit youths from Ron, Gajendragad, Mundargi and Shirahatti taluks in the coming days.

Girish says he is happy that his son is scaling up. "He lost his mother Roopashree when he was very young. We are proud that he has gone to the Himalayas four times. We hope he will be able to take Gadag youths on mountaineering expedition soon."

Hanumanth says that mountaineering has taught him that one should never give up when faced with adversity. "The mountain, the air, the silent ambience have all taught me many lessons. I learnt mountaineering while I was in NCC at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in Uttarakhand. I want the rural youth to get the same training. I started a free training camp in 2024. I gathered some likeminded youths and took them to Badami and other places on mountaineering trips within Karnataka. This is the fourth time I am visiting Himalaya in the last three years. This time I am also part of the rescue team." The expeditions are costly affairs and Hanumanth is now scouting for sponsorship from adventurous spirits.

The rise of mechanised production, availability of factory-made stone items and changing lifestyles have drastically reduced demand for the craft of these Vijayapura artisans

FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Vijayapura

Abdul Aziz Kadkol

Grave tidings for a tradition

BENT over a slab of dark granite, carefully chiselling the name of the deceased with practiced precision, 54-year-old Abdul Aziz Kadkol represents a fading tradition of hand-crafted stone carving that once flourished in the region. For decades, he has dedicated his life to an occupation inherited from his forefathers, a craft now struggling to survive in the age of machines.

A resident of Vijayapura, Aziz studied only up to Class 7 before joining the family trade at a young age. His father wanted more helping hands to continue the business. "Stone carving was our livelihood and identity. Education had to take a back seat," he recalled.

The family's association with the craft dates back over seven decades. Aziz's grandfather had migrated from Jamkhandi taluk in Bagalkot district — then part of the undivided Vijayapura district to Vijayapura (then Bijapur) in search of better economic opportunities. The move proved fruitful in those days, when demand for hand-crafted stone objects was high and skilled artisans were respected for their craftsmanship. Aziz remembers his childhood as a time when the family workshop was always bustling with activity. Around a dozen workers would be busy shaping stones into everyday household objects and memorial structures. Among the items they produced were stone mortars, pestles, samadhi stones placed on graves, and intricately carved gravestones.

"Machines were rare and mostly confined to cities then. Everything was done by hand, so skilled workers were in great demand," he said. The craft not only sustained his family but also provided employment to relatives and neighbours. Stone mortars and pestles were once essential kitchen tools in Indian households, used for grinding grains, spices and medicinal ingredients. Samadhi stones and gravestones, too, were widely commissioned, ensuring steady work for artisans.

Decline in demand

Today, however, Abdul Aziz and his younger brother Abdul Hameed Kadkol view the future of their occupation with concern. The rise of mechanised production, availability of factory-made stone items and changing lifestyles have drastically reduced demand for handmade products.

"Earlier, we would receive several orders every month. Now, even getting a few is difficult," Abdul Hameed said. He noted that crafting a granite samadhi by hand takes at least three days, whereas they can prepare three to four simple gravestones in a single day--if orders are there.

The brothers once employed about a dozen workers, but dwindling income has forced them to let go of all employees. According to Aziz, Vijayapura once had seven to eight families--both Hindu and Muslim engaged in the trade. Over the years, most have abandoned the occupation, leaving only three or four families still practicing the craft. Of Aziz's three sons, only one has shown interest in continuing the ancestral occupation. One son works as a carpenter while the youngest is still studying.

Ayaz Kadkol, 22, chose to join his father out of fascination with stone work since childhood. Having discontinued his education after Class 10, he now assists in carving and polishing. "I grew up watching my father work and wanted to learn the skill. But honestly, there isn't enough income for all of us to depend on it," he admitted.

Orders for gravestones, once the main source of revenue, have reduced sharply. Abdul Hameed said they previously received four to five orders a month, which has now fallen to less than half. "The only reason we still get some orders is because machine-made gravestones are expensive. Middle- and lower-middle-class families prefer our handmade work as it is affordable," he explained. Today, they rely on producing stone mortars and pestles to sustain their livelihood. Even these items are increasingly made using machines, further shrinking their market.

"These objects were once part of every household. Now they survive mostly as symbols of tradition," Aziz said. Many Hindu families buy them for ceremonial purposes, keep them as heirlooms, or gift them to daughters during weddings, customs that have helped keep the craft alive, albeit barely.

He believes that cultural traditions, rather than practical necessity, are now the primary reason for whatever demand remains.

An uncertain future

The family sees little hope for revival unless there is renewed appreciation for handmade craftsmanship.

With younger generations favouring modern tools, manual stone carving risks disappearing altogether. "Machines are faster and cheaper. People want convenience. Crafts like ours are slowly being forgotten," Aziz said, his voice reflecting both resignation and pride.

BLUES ARE BACK: BFC EYE STRONG COMEBACK AT HOME

SAPTARSHI C @Bengaluru

AFTER a prolonged Indian Super League pause, Bengaluru FC are set to host United Delhi FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday. The return to action has lifted the mood in the camp, with players and staff expressing renewed energy and focus.

Forward Ryan Williams highlighted the positive atmosphere within the squad. "We have been waiting a long time to get back out there, especially in front of our fans at home. The environment is positive, and when you are happy and confident off the pitch, it reflects in performances. Everyone is motivated and ready to give their best from the very first match," he said.

Williams has emerged as a key attacking force for BFC. Last season, he featured in 22 matches, scoring seven goals and providing four assists, underlining his influence in the final third.

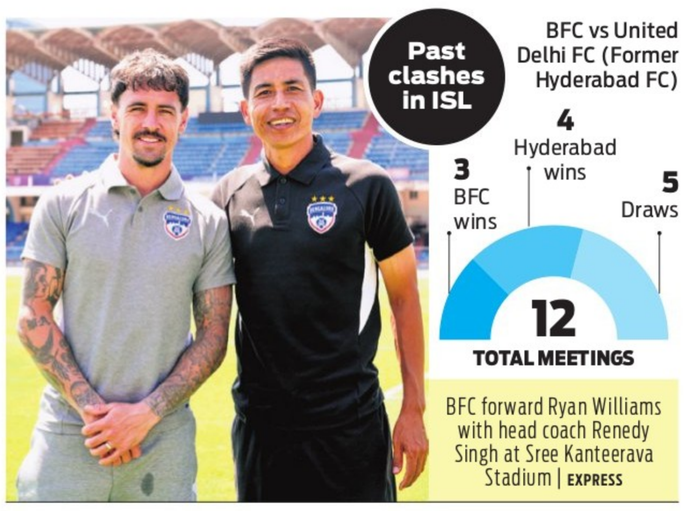
With home support behind them, the Blues will look to make their comeback count with an aggressive approach. Head coach Renedy Singh said, "The players have worked very hard over the past few weeks and are ready for the challenge. It is a 13-match season, but our focus is on taking it one game at a time, starting tomorrow. We want to attack with intent but also defend as a unit. The whole team must contribute consistently in both phases."

Singh, who joined the club as an assistant, took over as interim head coach following the exit of Gerard Zaragoza and was officially appointed head coach in January.

The forward line, led by Sunil Chhetri, was a potent force last season. Chhetri finished second in the ISL scoring charts with 14 goals and recorded 16 goal involvements in 28 matches. He registered 63 shots, 29 of them on target (46% accuracy), converting 22% into goals.

At the back, goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, along with defenders Rahul Bheke, Nikhil Poojary, Naorem Roshan Singh and Chinglensana Singh, provides solidity at the back.

Sporting Club Delhi, a new entity making its ISL debut this season following the rebranding and relocation of Hyderabad FC to the national capital, will be eager to make an immediate impact.



BFC forward Ryan Williams with head coach Renedy Singh at Sree Kanteerava Stadium | EXPRESS

The players have worked very hard over the past few weeks and are ready for the challenge. It is a 13-match season, but our focus is on taking it one game at a time, starting tomorrow. We want to attack with intent but also defend as a unit

—Renedy Singh, BFC head coach

Centre flags concerns over double-decker plan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

RED LINE METRO

Bengaluru's first Metro-cum-road double-decker flyover was launched along the Yellow Line| KEVIN NASHON

FOR commuters in Bengaluru, delays in Metro expansion are not just technical hold-ups, they translate into longer travel times and worsening congestion. The proposed 36.59-km Red Line under Phase 3A of Namma Metro, connecting Hebbal to Sarjapur, remains awaiting the Union Cabinet approval, months after receiving the state government's clearance in December 2024.

The corridor, stretching 36.59 km with 28 stations – 22.14 km elevated (17 stations) and 14.45 km underground (11 stations) – has reportedly run into technical scrutiny at the Centre, linked to the proposal for a double-decker structure along the alignment. The Centre has asked BMRCL to reconsider constructing a double-decker corridor along the full stretch, raising concerns that it defeats the core purpose of Metro construction, that is easing congestion and encouraging public transport use.

Prof Ashish Verma, Convenor of the Sustainable Transportation Lab at IISc, termed the concept "suicidal" from a planning perspective. "When you propose a double-decker, you are essentially killing the prospect of better Metro ridership," he said. According to him, adding road capacity alongside Metro infrastructure diverts potential commuters back to private vehicles, undermining mass transit goals. He argued that if the proposal had been limited to a Metro corridor alone, approval may have moved faster.

Independent mobility expert Satya Arikutharam echoed similar concerns, pointing out that the proposed Tunnel Road alignment runs parallel to the Red Line, defying established mobility principles. While limited double-decker structures at intersections may ease traffic conflicts, constructing them along the entire corridor defeats Metro objectives, he said. Both the Tunnel Road and double-decker are proposed as tolled facilities, potentially increasing commuting costs.

Experts warn that repeated reviews and design additions shift the burden onto citizens, who are denied timely access to affordable transport. A senior BMRCL official maintained that such scrutiny, including cost clarifications and third-party consultations, is part of the approval process and that concerns raised by the Centre will be addressed.

BBP staffer hurt in leopard attack undergoes surgery

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 47-year-old zoo staffer sustained grievous injuries in the face after being attacked by a leopard at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) rescue centre on Friday. He underwent facial surgery on Saturday.

The injured, Shantappa, was scratched by the leopard when he was cleaning the animal's enclosure. Zoo officials said that animals are shifted to a different enclosure as a safety measure while cleaning. Shantappa reportedly went close to the enclosure, and the leopard pawed at him through a gap.

BBP Executive Director AV Surya Sen said Shantappa has been handling leopards for several years and is experienced and cautious. "All animals and staff are vaccinated. The chances of any disease transmission have been ruled out. This is the first such incident in recent times. A similar attack occurred a couple of years ago when a tiger injured a zookeeper," he said. Sen said the management is bearing all medical expenses and that Shantappa is being treated at a private hospital in Jigani.

According to data, the rescue centre houses 80 leopards, while 21 are in the zoo's safari area. Jayamma, Shantappa's wife, said, "He was earlier attacked by a gaur. He is the sole breadwinner of our family." She demanded that the zoo management regularise his employment and provide financial security to contract workers.

THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 15, 2026 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 28 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianxpress
twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

PANNUN MURDER PLOT: NIKHIL GUPTA TO BE SENTENCED ON MAY 29

A US federal court will on May 29 sentence the Indian national accused of plotting to eliminate Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in New York in 2023

FACES UP TO 24 YEARS IN JAIL ON THREE CHARGES

Gupta, 54, pleaded guilty to murder-for-hire and two other charges in connection with his attempts to murder the Khalistani separatist Pannun. Following a plea bargain, he faces up to 24 years in jail. According to the US Department of Justice, Gupta was hired by Vikash Yadav, who worked for India's Cabinet Secretariat, which houses the Research and Analysis Wing

SOUGHT TO HIRE HITMAN FOR $100K JOB

- According to the indictment, at Yadav's direction, Gupta sought to hire a hitman to murder Pannun. The Centre has dissociated itself from the plot against Pannun, dismissing it as a "rogue operation"
- The hitman hired by Gupta, was to be paid $1,00,000 to murder Pannun. But the killer-on-hire was an undercover officer | P10

Jun 30, 2023

WHEN GUPTA WAS ARRESTED IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

BANGLADESH SHE VOTE WAS JAMAAT'S NEMESIS

Voted across party lines to defeat its attempt to capture power

BNP head Tarique Rahman greets supporters after his party won the parliamentary election, in Dhaka on Saturday | PTI

WOMEN in Bangladesh follow a distinct colour code on national red-letter days. On Poila Baisakh, 15 April, the *lal paar shada shari* — white with a red border — is donned to usher in the Bengali New Year. On Bijoy Dibas, 16 December, marking the 1971 surrender of the Pakistan Army in Dhaka, the palette turns green. On 21 February, black is worn as homage to those killed in Dhaka in 1952 for seeking national language status for Bengali as well as Urdu.

Today, too, has its own special colour: bright yellow in a range of hues. Across Bangladesh, women in sunshine sarees, flowers woven into their hair, are celebrating *basanta utsav*, the advent of spring. They are also celebrating the verdict in the just-concluded election. The fact that BNP has had a landslide with 212 seats and the Jamaat-e-Islami was held at 77 is, for many women, a big relief.

MONIDEEPA BANERJIE
Veteran journalist

"Though I am traditionally an Awami League voter, I voted BNP this time," said a 42-year-old woman in Dhaka's upmarket Banani who works in the social sector. "Anything to keep the Jamaat out. Because of them I had packed away my track suits and sleeveless blouses. Now I can use them again. This is not frivolous. The Jamaat had cast a long shadow on women."

Ordinary women who ventured out in trousers instead of traditional attire were heckled, even assaulted, for the way they dressed. Often, the hecklers were women supporters of Jamaat. Daily wage earners were equally alarmed when the Jamaat manifesto proposed women work five hours during maternity instead of eight. For women paid by the hour, fewer hours meant one thing: lower wages. In its manifesto, Jamaat promised to increase the representation of women in the cabinet if elected to power. But it did not field a single woman candidate, possibly the only party to do so. CONTINUED ON: P9

BNP set to invite Modi for Tarique Rahman's oath taking ceremony

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

THE Bangladesh Nationalist Party is set to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the swearing-in ceremony of Tarique Rahman, signalling a possible push to normalise ties following a bruising period in Dhaka–New Delhi relationship. Rahman, Bangladesh's prime minister-in-waiting, is expected to take office in the coming days after the BNP secured a landslide victory in the 13th national parliamentary elections, handing him a commanding mandate.

Humayun Kabir, foreign policy adviser to Rahman said: "Region is important to us... There is a sense of priority in sending out invitations for the inauguration." He framed the invitation to Modi as a goodwill gesture.

> **This victory belongs to democracy.. to people who aspired to and have sacrificed for democracy**
>
> Tarique Rahman

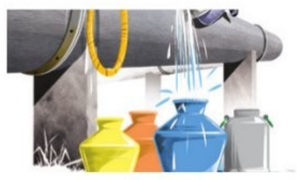
Relations between Dhaka and New Delhi turned frosty following the ouster of former PM Sheikh Hasina, whose government had maintained close ties with India. Against that backdrop, Modi's swift outreach to Rahman after the election result was seen as a significant outreach. Modi was the first world leader to telephone Rahman following the BNP's victory.

Rahman said his government's foreign policy will be anchored firmly in national interest. "We have cleared ourselves regarding the foreign policy, which is the interest of Bangladesh, and the interest of Bangladeshi people comes first," Rahman said when asked about mending ties with India.

The careful phrasing suggests a balancing act ahead. At a press conference a day after the BNP's sweeping win, Rahman struck a tone of triumph tempered by caution. He dedicated the victory to citizens who "sacrificed for democracy." "This victory belongs to Bangladesh, belongs to democracy, this victory belongs to people who aspired to and have sacrificed for democracy," he said.

Drinking water quality sees big improvement in K'taka

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru



CONTAMINATION in Karnataka's drinking water has shown a marked decline over the last three years, according to data tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti on February 12.

As per data, the number of samples found non-compliant with prescribed quality standards has fallen steadily. Chemical contamination cases dropped from 24,917 in 2023-24 to 17,261 in 2024-25 and further to 10,911 in 2025-26 (as on date). Bacteriological contamination has seen an even sharper fall -- from 4,670 in 2023-24 to 2,574 in 2024-25 and just 452 so far in 2025-26. A closer look at contaminant-wise data reveals both progress and persistent hotspots across districts.

In 2023-24, nitrate and fluoride contamination were widespread. Nitrate-affected samples peaked in districts such as Chikkaballapur (563), Chitradurga (504), Vijayapura (340), Mandya (316), and Tumakuru (300). Fluoride was high in Chitradurga (437), Chikkaballapur (389), Raichur (320), and Tumakuru (211). Microbial contamination was significant in Bengaluru Urban (338 E. coli; 444 total coliform), Chikkaballapur (404 E. coli; 838 total coliform), Mandya (48 E. coli; 483 total coliform) and Hassan (81 E. coli; 182 total coliform).

By 2024-25, overall contamination counts reduced. Nitrate levels remained elevated in Chikkaballapur (382), Vijayapura (359), Koppal (349), Mandya (373), Belagavi (302) and Tumakuru (198). Fluoride contamination continued in Tumakuru (248) and Chitradurga (252). Microbial contamination, though reduced at the aggregate level, persisted in districts such as Mandya (201 E. coli), Koppal (196), Mysuru (235), and Kolar (380 E. coli). P7

Govt approves ₹10K cr for Startup Fund of Funds 2.0

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Union Cabinet on Saturday approved the establishment of the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (Startup India FoF 2.0) with a total corpus of ₹10,000 crore.

The Startup India FoF 2.0 builds on nearly a decade of sustained efforts to make India one of the world's leading startup nations.

The scheme is designed to accelerate the next phase of India's startup journey by mobilising long-term domestic capital, strengthening the venture capital ecosystem, and supporting innovation-led entrepreneurship across the country, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement.

As per the government, since the launch of Startup India in 2016, India's startup ecosystem has grown from fewer than 500 startups to over 2 lakh Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)-recognised startups today.

While the first phase built the ecosystem, Startup India FoF 2.0 is designed to take Indian innovation to the next level, the government said. The fund will employ a targeted, segmented funding approach to support deep tech and tech-driven innovative manufacturing, empowering early-growth-stage founders and encouraging investment beyond major metros.

EXPRESS INTAKE

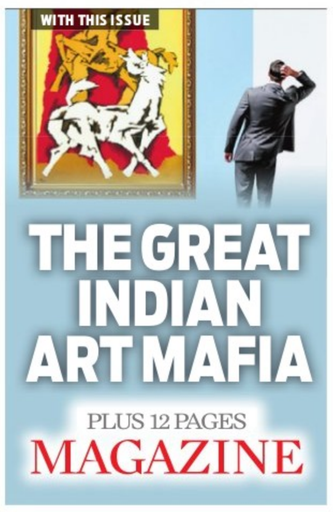
Our guarantees have got int'l recognition, says Siddu | P4

Kumaraswamy: No confusion over alliance with BJP | P4

Contractors vow stir over ₹37k cr payment dues | P6

Rahul's policy is to lie, says Amit Shah in Puducherry | P7

BADE SAPNO KA RAKHE KHAYAL
LIC KI AMRITBAAL
LIC's AMRITBAAL
UIN: 512N365V02
Plan No.: 774
Insurance Plan for Children
Product's Key Features
• Attractive Guaranteed Addition throughout the Policy Term
• Maturity age between 18-25 Years
• Option to choose Single / Limited premium payments
Plan is also available online for sale
A Non-Par, Non-Linked, Life, Individual, Savings Plan
LIC
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Har Pal Aapke Saath
Download LIC Mobile App
Visit: licindia.in
Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827
For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474
Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090 Say 'Hi'
Follow us : LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512
BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.
LIC/R1/2024-25/17/ENG



Bengaluru student missing in US, chief secy seeks help from MEA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has written to Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Vikram Misri, to help trace 22-year-old Saketh Sreenivasaiah from Bengaluru, who went missing on February 10, 2026 in Berkeley, California, USA.

Saketh flew to the US in February 2025 to pursue an MS in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of California, after completing BTech in Chemical Engineering from IIT Madras.

Shalini Rajneesh sent the letter to Misri after Saketh's father Sreenivasaiah wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on lack of information about their missing son from the police and mounting anxiety in the family. CONTINUED ON P7

Saketh Sreenivasaiah

INDIA VS PAKISTAN

Cricket talk after off-field powerplay

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Colombo

WHEN Saturday dawned, a fair few couples headed to the picturesque Galle Face Beach in the heart of the city's Central Business District to exchange their wedding vows.

A few hours later, though, tension was rising inside the press conference room at the R Premadasa Stadium, six kms away from the beach. There were questions on politics, and diplomacy before some cricket finally broke through. It's been that kind of a build-up to the latest installment of India-Pakistan cricket match. But the general mood around both camps 24 hours out from the encounter was calm. Yadav, in his fourth match as captain in this fixture, was particularly chirpy. When told by a Pakistan journalist that Agha would prefer to play the strongest Indian XI with respect to Abhishek Sharma, Yadav said: "Okay, then we will play Abhishek (smiles)."

When another scribe asked him about shaking hands at the toss, he quipped: "Eat well, sleep well, wait for 24 hours (to find out)." By 7 PM on Sunday tension will be back with over a billion people across borders will again turn to 22 people on a cricket field to bring them joy and light. P15

India head coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Suryakumar Yadav (R) | PTI

HIT-WAVE

Today's Matches

11am: Nepal vs West Indies (Mumbai)

3pm: USA vs Namibia (Chennai)

7pm: India vs Pakistan (Colombo)

The Karnataka State Contractors' Association on Saturday threatened to organise a state-wide protest on March 5 unless the government immediately released their Rs 37,000 crore dues for developmental works they have undertaken

Our guarantees have got int'l recognition: CM

Of the 590 promises made by Congress ahead of 2023 Assembly election, 243 fulfilled, says Siddaramaiah

PRAMODKUMAR VAIDYA @ Haveri

WHILE Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has claimed that the five guarantees implemented by the Congress government in Karnataka have gotten international recognition, as they were hailed by the United Nations and Nobel laureates Amartya Sen and Abhijit Banerjee, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has asserted that the state's guarantees have become the country's guarantees, as other states have followed the same.

The CM and Deputy CM were addressing the 'Bhoo Guarantee Samarpana Samavesha' held in Haveri to distribute title deeds to over 1 lakh beneficiaries and celebrate the Congress government completing 1,000 days in office in the state.

Siddaramaiah said that studies have recognised that the purchasing power as well as the per capita income of the people in the state have considerably improved after the implementation of the guarantees, adding that these prosperities have pushed Karnataka to the top in the country in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

Accusing the BJP of spreading canards over the fiscal condition of the state, the CM said that his government has spent a whopping Rs 1.18 lakh crore to implement the guarantees. "If the state's treasury is empty, is it possible to spend such a big sum of money for a welfare programme?" he questioned and charged that the BJP, which failed to fulfil its promises when in power, has now indulged in false propaganda.

"We have achieved all these accomplishments despite the injustice by the Union Government," Siddaramaiah said, expressing anger that former CMs and current MPs Basavaraj Bommai and Jagadish Shettar and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi have not spoken out against the injustice meted out to the state by the Centre.

"Our government has completed two years and nine months in office. Of the 590 promises we made, 243 have been fulfilled. The rest will also be fulfilled," he said and added that even during 2013-18, his government had fulfilled all the promises made and implemented 30 additional promises not mentioned in the manifesto.

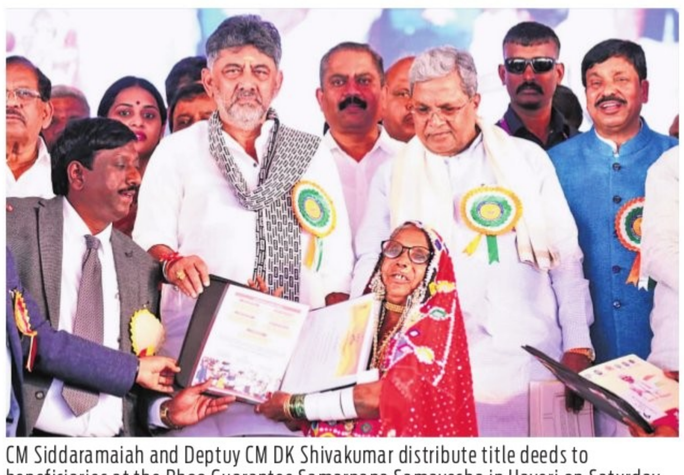
On the distribution of the title deed to beneficiaries, the CM said that the government has been distributing title deeds to 1 lakh beneficiaries for the second time through the Revenue Department. "So far, we have created a record by distributing title deeds to 2.2 lakh families," he said, adding that his government is people-centric. He praised Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, stating that there has been revolutionary progress in the department after he took charge.

Seventh guarantee: DKS

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar said the seventh guarantee being promised by his government was "water" through the implementation of pending projects connected to the Krishna, Cauvery, and Mahadayi rivers. After successfully implementing guarantees, including the Bhoo Guarantee, the government would strive hard to execute the seventh one, he promised.

The government has already announced Rs 35-40 lakh per acre for the acquisition of land for the third phase of the Upper Krishna project, and a detailed project report is being prepared for the Mekedatu project, he said. "Once the Centre accords wildlife clearance to the Mahadayi diversion, the project implementation would commence," he said and charged that the delay in giving permission by the Centre was delaying the projects.

Lashing out at the BJP for playing emotional politics and politics of religion, Shivakumar said, "No God is restricted to only the BJP. There should be dharma in politics, but not politics in the name of dharma. God never gives a curse or a boon, but provides opportunity, and one should utilise the opportunity for the public good."



CM Siddaramaiah and Deptuy CM DK Shivakumar distribute title deeds to beneficiaries at the Bhoo Guarantee Samarpana Samavesha in Haveri on Saturday

A statue of CM Siddaramaiah was unveiled by DCM DK Shivakumar in Haveri on Saturday. The statue was donated by Prakash Dasanoor, the head of Utsav Rock Garden, Gotagodi in Shiggaon taluk | EXPRESS

Congress will win 141 seats, says Shivakumar

DCM D K Shivakumar said, the Congress party would win 141 seats in the next Assembly election. Because of promises as well as five guarantees made before the 2023 election, the party had won 136 votes, and wrested two more seats from the opposition parties in the by-election. As they have implemented the promises that were made successfully, he said, the party was confident that it would win more seats and the tally could reach 141.

No Hope on Centre: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he has no hope from the Centre as far as the Bedti-Varada river linking project is concerned. Reacting to a query regarding the opposition expressed by the people of Uttara Kannada to the Bedthi-Varada river linking project, Siddaramaiah told the media that the DPR has already been sent to the Union Government, and they have to take a decision on it. "The Centre is not taking any decision on any matter. Therefore, we neither have assurance nor confidence that they will make a decision," the CM said.

A case for a renewed push for agriculture

AMIDST the thorny and unending speculation over the leadership change, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is preparing to present his record 17th budget on March 6. Subtle power struggles could have some influence on the budget as the CM would be looking to make the most of every opportunity to further cement his position. However, maintaining fiscal prudence and welfare programmes, including guarantee schemes, are likely to be the central points.

While political compulsions and urgent demand for outcomes may lead to more attention and allocation for certain schemes and departments, all-important agriculture and allied sectors need a much stronger push. Farmers require higher assistance as they continue to cope with uncertainties due to various factors, including price fluctuations, inadequate cold storage and transportation facilities, and crop loss due to heavy rains, floods, or droughts.

Last year, sugarcane farmers protested demanding a fair price to clear their dues; mango growers faced hardship as they depended on pulp extraction units in the neighbouring state, and farmers' suicides continued. All these highlight the need for a holistic, long-term approach in the budget as well as effective implementation. Agriculture and allied sectors were among the six key focus areas in Siddaramaiah's last budget. However, how many of those announcements were translated into reality and implemented? A status report could help bring accountability to the system.

The government needs to take a comprehensive view of the sector and come up with long-term measures to empower farmers through initiatives to boost their morale and increase their income. Such measures can also go a long way in preventing farmer suicides. Experts in the field suggest that a committee consisting of lawmakers, officials, experts, and farmer representatives could be formed to come up with concrete measures to empower farmers and ensure implementation at the grassroots level.

The government needs to strengthen and provide sufficient funds to the Directorate of Secondary Agriculture to enhance farmers' income through value addition services, packaging facilities, branding, marketing, and exports. Post-harvest losses, which are around 30% in vegetables and fruits and around 10% in cereals, impact farmers' income. More food processing units, efficient transportation, and cold storage facilities are required. Thanks to market linkage in the dairy sector, Karnataka is the largest producer of milk. Can a similar system or something on those lines be brought into marketing of fruits and vegetables?

Ensuring the success of an integrated farming system will boost farmers' income, while protecting the environment and improving soil fertility. For that to happen, the animal husbandry component needs to be incorporated by increasing the funds given to beneficiaries.

Agriculture and allied departments need to work in tandem to provide assistance to farmers. The government had earlier announced the Agriculture Development Board, headed by the CM, with the Agriculture Minister as the vice-chairman. However, the initiative aimed to ensure better coordination, avoid duplication of efforts, and efficient utilisation of available resources is yet to take off. The CM needs to revive that initiative.

Also, in the 2025-26 budget, the CM had announced the implementation of a comprehensive Rain-fed Agriculture Policy, as 64% of the state's cultivated area is rain-fed. The policy is still in the works. Experts advocate the need for an integrated agricultural policy, including the Rain-fed Agriculture Policy and the Agriculture Start-up Policy that is under consideration.

The government should consider providing loans to unemployed agriculture graduates settled in villages or small towns to start small agri-business units, including organic units like biofertilisers, bio-control agents and vermicompost. It would help produce good quality organic inputs at a low cost and provide a source of income for the unemployed graduates. A single-window system of providing all advisory services related to agriculture and allied sectors at the 742 Raitha Samparka Kendras at the Gram Panchayat or Hobli levels will be helpful.

Push for micro-irrigation is another important aspect. The state has around 36 lakh hectares of irrigated land. Of that, 16 lakh hectares are covered under micro-irrigation. More emphasis needs to be given to increase the area under micro-irrigation by providing more funds to farmers from the agriculture, horticulture and sericulture departments.

Apart from increasing funding to the sector, the government also needs to rope in experts from reputed institutions, such as agriculture universities, Institution of Agricultural Technologists (IAT) and the services of others, especially retired officers who have worked with the agriculture department and allied sectors, and representatives of farmers' unions to strengthen its efforts.

Dr A B Patil, President of IAT, says the institution is always willing to supplement and complement any effort by the government. IAT has 6,000 active life members, who are graduates in agriculture and horticulture, and it is active in over 22 districts.

Perhaps, as the CM and top officials prepare the budget, they need to review earlier measures and come up with new initiatives to provide a renewed push to the sector.

DKS SHOWN BLACK FLAGS BY BANJARA PROTESTERS

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @ Davanagere

Black flags were waved at Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar by a group of protesters during the 287 birth anniversary celebration of Sant Sevalal at Bayaghad in Davanagere district on Saturday. The protesters were said to represent the Banjara community who were left out of the internal reservation quota. Amidst the hubbub Shivakumar addressed the gathering briefly and left the place. The DCM lauded the support given by the Banjara community at his home constituency of Kanakapura. He said the Congress is committed for the upliftment of the Banjara community. Responding to the 'Go Back' slogans Shivakumar said, "DK will not budge for these type of orchestrated protests. We all are here to take part in the religious programme irrespective of party politics. We play politics during elections and not at religious and spiritual programmes." Later the DCM told reporters that the protest was orchestrated by Kudachi MLA P Rajeev. "I knew about this protest before my arrival at the venue. I will take all the brickbats as a positive sign and ensure that all the oppressed communities are brought to the main stream of society," he added. He said that it was the Congress that had given Banjaras SC status, 1.11 crore title deeds to the Thanda dwellers and set up the Karnataka Thanda Development Corporation. When asked about when he is going to become chief minister, he said that, "Good time is coming and time will give answer to all the questions."

BYV accuses State Govt of misusing Central grants

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA BJP president BY Vijayendra accused the state government of misusing Rs 1,323.96 crore special central grants by diverting funds to other departments instead of using them for designated projects.

Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, the BJP leader said that fabricated utilization certificates were submitted to the Centre under pressure from the Finance Department.

Vijayendra said that on July 1, 2025, funds were released for capital investment, and the Karnataka Minor Irrigation Department and Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam were supposed to submit utilization certificates. He alleged that certificates were issued despite funds not being properly utilized.

Vijayendra said the BJP MLAs had questioned where the Rs 5,000 crore allocated under the Gruhalakshmi scheme had been transferred, but the Chief Minister has not provided clear answers in the Assembly, even when questioned by the Leader of Opposition R Ashok. He demanded that the Chief Minister clarify the status of the Rs 5,000 crore allocation.

On the Congress government in the state completing 1,000 days in office and celebrating the occasion with a grand event in Haveri on Saturday, the BJP leader said the government betrayed poor citizens, farmers, women, and youth by telling "a thousand lies" while celebrating 1000 days in office. He accused the Chief Minister, who claims to represent AHINDA communities, of doing justice only to minorities while neglecting Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Vokkaligas, and Veerashaiva-Lingayat communities. He also accused the government of appeasing minorities, insulting Hindus, and neglecting youth.

He accused the Congress government of using Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes merely as vote banks instead of genuinely working for their welfare. The Congress government has become a model for corruption.

He alleged that the Congress government is focused only on Bengaluru and Mysuru and has failed to address the regional imbalance. He also claimed that 1.41 lakh Backward Class students have not been provided hostel facilities.

Bhupender Yadav to attend state executive meeting

The BJP leader said Union Minister Bhupender Yadav will attend the BJP State Executive Committee meeting in Bengaluru on February 19. During the state executive committee meeting, they would discuss measures to further strengthen the party organization and create awareness about the alleged corruption in the state administration.

State BJP chief BY Vijayendra addresses the media in Bengaluru on Saturday

No confusion over JDS-BJP alliance, says Kumaraswamy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy on Saturday said his objective is to remove the Congress government in Karnataka and bring in a people-centric administration. "JDS and BJP will work together to accomplish this," he told reporters. Kumaraswamy said any discussion about the CM post at this juncture is inappropriate as there is still ample time for that and considerable work ahead of them.

Responding to a question, Kumaraswamy said some individuals continue to speak about the alliance and the CM's post, but there is no need to respond to them. "Together, we will strengthen the alliance, face the elections unitedly, and bring a people-oriented government," he said. He said there have been no discussions so far between the two parties regarding the local body or Greater Bengaluru elections.

NETAS, SEERS PAY HOMAGE TO BHIMANNA KHANDRE

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah pays tributes to Dr Bhimanna Khandre on Palace Grounds in Benglauru on Saturday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

POLITICIANS, seers and community members paid rich tributes to veteran leader Dr Bhimanna Khandre at a commemorative programme on Palace Grounds in Bengaluru, recalling his lifelong commitment to equality, farmers' welfare and social justice.

AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and a galaxy of top politicians and dignitaries spoke at the condolence meeting Dr Khandre, a former minister and former president of the Veerashaiva Mahasabha, passed way recently. DCM DK Shivakumar, Shivaratri Deshikendra Swamiji of Suttur Mutt, Shivamurthy Shivacharya Mahaswamiji of Sirigere Brihanmutt, Basavalinga Pattadevaru, Junior Swamiji Gurubasava Pattadevaru, Shivananda Swamiji, Siddarama Sharana of Beldale, Union Minister V Somanna, Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, Assembly Speaker UT Khader, former CMs M Veerappa Moily and BS Yediyurappa, and several ministers were present.

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre, remembering his father, said he lived by the ideals of Basavanna, advocating a society free from caste, class, religious and gender discrimination. He noted that Khandre consistently helped the poor and the oppressed who approached him for justice and always placed the nation first. Khandre recalled that his father remained deeply concerned about farmers and fought relentlessly to secure justice for them. As national president of the Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha, he worked to unite various sub-sects of the community and organised major gatherings of religious leaders. The minister said Dr Khandre had envisioned a hostel for nearly 1,000 girl students in Bengaluru, a project now being pursued.

Moily described Dr Khandre as a man of impeccable integrity whose inclusion in the cabinet brought distinction to the government. Union MoS V Somanna highlighted Dr Khandre's role in ensuring that Bidar district remained part of Karnataka during state reorganisation.

EXPRESS READ

SWAMIJI GETS A PROMOTION!

BENGALURU: BJP state unit on Saturday said CM Siddaramaiah has no control over the administration, and even an officer who has taken voluntary retirement from service has got a promotion. However, the State Government defended its order on promoting several officers, including KAS officer Dr HL Nagaraj, who has submitted an application for voluntary retirement. The government stated that his application is under consideration. Since the application is yet to be accepted and he is not yet relieved from the service, he is considered for promotion as per the rules. However, he would get the promotion only when he takes charge, the government clarified. After applying for voluntary retirement, Nagaraj has become a seer with a Vokkaliga mutt.

A 46-year-old woman Poornima, who sustained severe burn injuries in a suspected gas leak fire under the KR Puram limits succumbed on Saturday while undergoing treatment at Victoria Hospital. Venkatesh (46), her tenant alerted her noticing the smell of gas. Fire ignited when she switched on the light to check the leak, injuring both of them. Venkatesh is undergoing treatment

Asst manager steals gold from bank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 35-year-old assistant branch manager of Indian Bank, Girinagar branch in Banashankari 3rd Stage, was arrested for stealing over 2 kg of gold ornaments pledged by customers to get gold loans. The accused, E Kiran Kumar, was addicted to online betting and gambling, stole ornaments worth around Rs 4.12 crore and pledged them at gold finance firms. The theft came to light when a customer came to collect her jewellery after closing the gold loan.

The police recovered around 700 gm of gold ornaments from him. The bank manager and MG Road filed a complaint at the Girinagar police station on February 5 after Kiran's role was proved.

"On February 2, the customer went to the bank branch to close her gold loan and to take her ornaments back. When she checked, she found some pieces of jewellery missing. She complained to bank's branch manager Trupti Jha, who informed the zonal office. During the internal investigation, it was found that ornaments belonging to 24 gold loan accounts out of the total 207 had been stolen. From 21 packets, small quantities of jewellery were stolen, but from three others, the entire contents were emptied out. In total, 2.78 kg of gold worth around Rs 4.12 crore had been spirited away," said an officer.

Kiran was working at the bank's Girinagar branch from June 24, 2025. It is said that he confessed only he was involved in the theft and told the investigators that he had pledged the jewellery at gold loan finance firms. He has submitted the receipts from places where he has pledged the stolen ornaments.

A case of criminal breach of trust has been filed against him. Customers are advised to repeatedly check their gold ornaments kept in banks," said Lokesh B Jagalasar, DCP (South).

Kiran had access to the room where the pledged gold was kept. Kiran stole small quantities from the packets in which the gold ornaments were kept.

On February 2, one of the bank's customers, who had closed her gold loan, came to collect her ornaments. She noticed that some of her jewellery was missing from the packet and complained to the manager, who ordered an internal probe.

The theft is said to have occurred between June 24, 2025 and January-end this year. Bank's chief manager Dilip Kumar from the Zonal Office on

HOSKOTE TRAGEDY

The mangled remains of the SUV involved in the accident on the access-controlled Satellite Town Ring Road expressway near Hoskote on Friday morning | EXPRESS

Authorities conduct joint survey at STRR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A day after the horrific accident on the access-controlled Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) expressway between Hoskote and Devanahalli near Kambalipura killed seven persons, including six students, a team of senior officials from the Bengaluru Rural police, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Public Works Department (PWD) and Regional Transport Office (RTO) conducted a joint survey at the accident spot to ascertain if any reason other than speeding was responsible for the accident. It is said that the 17-year-old minor boy at the wheels was driving the new SUV at over 150 kmph when it hit a two-wheeler and a lorry on the highway.

The two-hour survey began by 11 am on Saturday. Additional Superintendent of Police -1 of Bengaluru Rural HN Venkatesh Prasanna, the deputy superintendent of police Hoskote subdivision and Sulibele police inspector were part of the survey team.

"The police officers will discuss with officials from NHAI, PWD and RTO and submit a detailed report to NHAI in a few days if any other measures are needed to avert such accidents in the future. Last year, there was one fatal accident killing one person at the same spot. The officials are also looking into complaints from local residents about poor visibility on the road at a turn. The police officers will talk to frequent travellers on the route and also local villagers to find out if there are any issues on the road," said an officer of the survey team. "Despite installing one CCTV for every kilometre on the stretch, none of the cameras recorded Friday's accident. NHAI officials have been asked to add a CCTV camera at the spot," the officer added.

Six teenagers and a young two-wheeler rider died on the spot in the accident involving the SUV, a two-wheeler and a truck on Friday between 4.30 am and 4.45 am. The six students who were in the SUV were friends and were reportedly going on a long drive. The other victim was the two-wheeler rider, a 26-year-old manager at a wholesale market and auctioning centre for fruits and vegetables. Among the deceased, five were minors.

Low staff, poor facilities plague govt hospitals, says Lokayukta

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

LOKAYUKTA Justice BS Patil bemoaned the poor state of government hospitals in the state. He said that inspections carried out in hospitals during his tenure as Upa Lokayukta documented the absence of staff, including doctors, insufficient medicines, lack of hygienic and proper facilities, etc.

He was speaking on the occasion of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) celebrating 51 years of service in mental health across the state. He said, "We have visited institutes like Kidwai, KC General, Victoria and many other government hospitals across the state. Many complaints were filed against the authorities for not rendering the services in a proper way to the public and I am still monitoring them. It is pathetic to see that the vision established at the start of these institutes gradually fades away and greed sets in. When the officials are paid good salaries and other allowances at the right time to render public service, greed shouldn't have a place."

Emphasising on the pressure on NIMHANS infrastructure and staff in treating lakhs of patients from across the state, he said government hospitals should have a wing to treat neurological and related issues in addition to telemedicine facilities.

Kshaya Jeevan Raksha, a manual for treating and prevention of suicide in routine healthcare especially among patients suffering from tuberculosis was released.

Doc booked for cheating MBBS aspirants of ₹75L

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

'In a major education fraud case, a doctor from Yamanapur has been booked for allegedly cheating 37 people of nearly Rs 75 lakh by promising MBBS admissions and jobs in Russia.

The accused has been identified as Suraj Ashok Angolkar, a resident of Haripriya Kunj, Maruti Galli, Yamanapur. He reportedly runs Sneha Clinic at Rajendra Complex in Khade Bazaar along with his wife.

Based on the complaint, a case has been registered at Khade Bazar Police Station.

According to the complaint filed by Azaruddin Abdul Samad Rangari (32), a resident of New Gandhinagar, the accused approached him in November 2024 claiming he had completed MBBS in Russia and had strong contacts with medical colleges there. He allegedly assured admissions to MBBS courses and well-paying jobs in Russia with a monthly salary of 90,000 rubles (approximately ₹ 1.04 lakh) along with meals.

Believing his claims, the complainant, his friends, and others paid a total of Rs 74 lakh — Rs 13.5 lakh via PhonePe transfers and Rs 60.5 lakh in cash at the clinic.

The accused allegedly sent 22 candidates to Russia on visit visas instead of work visas, and they were sent back to India after 15 days. Realizing they had been duped, the victims approached the police. Inspector Mahantesh Dhamanvar is investigating the case.

PETAL PERFECTION

A woman walks past a pink tabebuia tree in full bloom near Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

EXPRESS READ

MLA Byrathi Basavaraj in Jayadeva after arrest

BENGALURU: BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, who was arrested by the CID on Thursday in connection with the murder of history-sheeter Biklu Shiva, is at present undergoing treatment at the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research in Bengaluru, after he complained of hear-related discomfort soon after his arrest. A Bengaluru court on Friday directed CID to take him to the hospital for medical evaluation. Security has been enhanced at the hospital. Officials said that further decisions regarding his custody will be taken after medical inputs are received. The CID is expected to act based on the doctors' assessment while continuing its investigation. **ENS**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SANGAPPA BHEEMRAO NELGE**, aged about 52 years, S/o. Bheemrao, residing at Flat No. A-001, Temple Bells Premier Apartment Ideal Homes Layout, Kenchenhalli Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098, Karnataka State, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SANGAPPA** to **SANGAPPA BHEEMRAO NELGE**, vide affidavit dated 14.02.2026, sworn to before Harisha .G, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड
Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)

RVNL/CPM/MAS/CMRL/UG/ GEOI-2/2025-26 DT: 27/01/2026

GLOBAL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Corrigendum to the earlier notification dated 03.02.2026 for extension of the submission date.

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), A Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) under the Ministry of Railways, invites EOI through online from potential buyers / contractors for purchase of Trench Cutter Machines (Bauer BC-35) available @ Chennai.

Further details are available on **https://rvnl.ewizard.in**

Last date for submission of application Date: 19.02.2026 (Online Mode only) 15.00 hrs.

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL AT BANGALORE
G & WC. No. 117/2025

BETWEEN:
Sri. Arup Sarkar, S/o. Sri. Durgapada Sarkar, Aged about 45 years, R/a. # 405, P-Square Relais Apartments, Madhusandra Road, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru-560 087 **...PETITIONER**
AND:
Smt. Sangeeta, W/o. Sri. Arup Sarkar, Aged about 36 years, R/a. # 405 P-Square Relais Apartments, Madhusandra Road, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru-560 087 **...RESPONDENT**

SUMMONS TO RESPONDENT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20(1A) OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908.

Smt. Sangeeta, W/o. Sri. Arup Sarkar, Aged about 36 years, R/a. #405 P-Square Relais Apartments, Madhusandra Road, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru-560 087.

Whereas the Petitioner has filed a petition for custody against the Respondent under Section 7 of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 Read with Section 151 of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 seeking to appoint and declare the Petitioner as the sole Guardian of the minor child Kum. Aarohi Sarkar and to grant the permanent custody of the minor child to Ward Kum. Aarohi Sarkar for the well-being and welfare of the child. You are hereby summoned to appear in person or through pleader on **02.04.2026 at about 11.00 a.m,** before the 1st Additional Senior Civil Judge, Bengaluru Rural at Bengaluru to answer to all material questions in relation to the above case, failing which the matter will be heard and decided by placing you as Ex-parte.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Court, on this day 12th Day of February 2026.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- **Chief Ministerial Officer**
Senior Civil Judge Court,
Bengaluru Rural Dist., Bengaluru

Advocate for Petitioner:
Dr. M. Sunil Sastry,
M/s. Sastry & Co.,
New No. 1098 (old No.8), O.T.C. Road, Nagarthpet, Bengaluru-560 002.

XPRESS FOCUS

Lord Shiva's divine gift - Rudraksha

Ancient Wisdom for Modern Life

Rudraksha is revered as one of the most sacred gifts of nature, blessed by Lord Shiva Himself. According to ancient scriptures, Rudraksha beads originated from the divine tears of Lord Shiva, shed for the welfare of humanity. For centuries, sages, scholars, and householders have relied on Rudraksha for protection, balance, and spiritual elevation.

Planetary Influence & Birth Energy

Astrology teaches that planetary forces influence every aspect of human life—health, career, relationships, intelligence, finances, and spiritual growth. An individual's Date of Birth reveals powerful insights into these influences.

Rudraksha Therapy, guided by numerological and astrological analysis, helps correct imbalances caused by adverse planetary effects, bringing harmony, success, and prosperity.

Rudraksha Therapy - A Proven Path

Rudraksha beads range from 1 Mukhi to 21 Mukhi, each possessing unique energies and specific benefits. Time-tested Rudraksha Therapy has helped countless individuals—from professionals and entrepreneurs to spiritual seekers—achieve stability, confidence, and progress in life.

Scientific & Healing Significance

Beyond mythology, Rudraksha has strong scientific relevance. The human body functions as a bio-electrical system, and Rudraksha helps stabilize these currents. It is known to support:

- Stress reduction
- Heart rhythm balance
- Blood pressure regulation
- Mental calmness and clarity
- Emotional and marital harmony
- Ancient medical texts also describe Rudraksha as supportive in slowing ageing and balancing vital chakras.

Why Choose Rudrajyoothi

Rudrajyoothi sources Rudraksha directly from certified farmers in Nepal, the most sacred origin as per scriptures. Every bead is scientifically tested and certified by ARTL, Mumbai, and the organization is ISO 9001:2015 certified, ensuring authenticity, purity, and spiritual efficacy. Personalized guidance helps individuals choose the right Rudraksha for their life goals.

Special Rudraksha Exhibition

- Witness a rare spiritual showcase featuring:
  - Shiva Shakthi Mala (1 Mukhi to 14 Mukhi combination)
  - Rare 1–21 Mukhi Rudraksha beads & malas
  - Energized Mercury Shivlingas
  - Crystal Yantras, lockets, bracelets & divine accessories
- Free Rudrabhishekam for every mala purchased.

Auspicious Shivratri Blessing

Wearing Rudraksha and offering puja and abhishekam to Lord Shiva on Shivratri is considered highly beneficial for spiritual growth and overall well-being.

Visit Us
Rudrajyoothi Healing Gallery – Rudraksha Exhibition
Gururaj Kalyana Mandapam, near Race Course Road,
Near Mallige Hospital, Crescent Road,
High Grounds, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru – 01
Dates: 15 Feb – 21 Feb 2026
Time: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
98674 02789
www.rudrajyoothi.in

Arvind P Bankaar
- Rudraksh Therapist
Author is expert in Rudraksh Therapy

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that **I, Sricharan G Sonole,** residing at No.38/A, 6th Main, 12th Cross, J P Nagar 3rd Phase Bangalore-560078, has lost the below mentioned Documents:**1) Possession certificate-** 45/1974-75, dated 16-08-1974. **2) Allotment Letter -** 38/A SRKIII/1973-74, dated 05-12-1973. **3) BDA Absolute Sale deed No-**2596/1985-86 dated 09th October 1985, SRO Bangalore south taluk **4) BDA Khata of Site No.38/A-** Name of Anusuya Savanth, **5) Mortgage deed - No -** 5052/1985-86 Dated 13-02-1986, **6) Discharge deed-**No-7209/ 1994-95, Dated 15th October 1994.

I have lodged Police Complaint in Bangalore city Police Station, vide lost report No. **2062164/ 2026, dated: 13-02-2026.** In case anybody find said Documents, shall inform the above mentioned Address/ below mentioned **Contact Number: 9686759186.**

SITE FOR SALES

Applications are invited through online E-Tender for sale of Tirunelveli EB Staff Co-operative Building Society, Tirunelveli. 1 nos. Shop Sites through the below mentioned website.

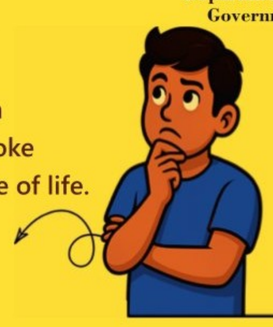
WEBSITE : https://tntenders.gov.in/

Secretary
9944008552
Administrator
Nellai Co-op Publicity

Tea - A perfect Ingredient to Healthy Living

- A vitamin boost for you, with every sip
- Tea has antioxidants and fights germs like the Avengers
- Keeps your heart in the best of health
- Polyphenols in tea may reduce the threat of Cancer-causing germs in your body
- Catechin in Green Tea may help in reducing the risk of Esophageal (Throat) Cancer
- Shields your skin against UV exposure like a sun screen
- Tea has Flavonoids which may minimize chances of stroke
- A great stress reliever - makes you see the brighter side of life.

TEA BOARD INDIA
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
Government of India



Steps to Brewing Happiness

- Boil water in a vessel
- Add 3 grams of branded tea of your choice
- Place a lid on the vessel, let it brew for 2-3 minutes
- Add milk and sugar to taste

Pure Tea, Pure Vibes, Better Health

Quality Matters - Keep off Adulterated tea

- If a pinch of tea powder turns cold water red, that's adulterated tea
- Authentic tea when added to cold water will not dramatically turn it red
- Hence, always opt for Quality Tea
- Buying authentic and Genuine tea is also a great support to tea farmers, and a big barrier against adulteration

Scan this to know more

Issued in Public Interest :
Executive Director,
Tea Board India, Zonal Office,
Shelwood, Club Road, Coonoor - 643101.
Email : ed.coonoor-tbi@gov.in

Follow Us On TEABOARDINDIA TEABOARDINDIA TEABOARDOFINDIA TEABOARDCOONOOR

Director of Postal Services (Karnataka Postal Circle) Sandesh Mahadevappa on Saturday announced that the 38th All India Postal Cultural Meet–2026 will be held in Mysuru from February 16 to 20 He said the event is aimed at encouraging cultural excellence and promote the overall well-being of its employees, besides fostering unity, camaraderie and teamwork among postal employees across the country

Contractors' association members at a meeting in Chikkamagaluru on Saturday

Contractors vow stir over ₹37k cr payment dues

Say even their family members will join the protests to force government to act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

THE Karnataka State Contractors' Association (KSCA) on Saturday threatened to organise a state-wide protest on March 5 unless the government immediately released their Rs 37,000 crore dues for developmental works they have undertaken.

Speaking to reporters in Shivamogga, KSCA president R Manjunath said they are planning a massive but peaceful protest in Bengaluru's Freedom park. He was speaking after participating in the preliminary meeting and added that families of the contractors will also stage protests to convince the government.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah should take steps to release the due amount of Rs 37,000 cr promptly. If the government adopts an apathetic attitude, contractors across the state will boycott work and stage protests." he said.

Manjunath said the association had submitted a 100-page memorandum to the government and the ministers concerned called meetings to discuss it, but the CM was yet to break silence over the matter.

There are many small and medium contractors in the state. Distressed contractors have even pledged ornaments belonging to their spouses and other family members, as well as other valuables, to ensure completion of works. While other states listen to the grievances of their contractors, the Karnataka government is hardly concerned, Manjunath said.

The association's working president KS Shanthe Gowda presided over the meeting.

DON'T POLITICISE CHILD RIGHTS BODY: ACTIVISTS

RASHMI PATIL @ Bengaluru

EVEN as the department of women and child development invites applications for the appointment of chairperson and members to the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) with a tenure of three years, child rights activists have expressed concern about political interference in the process.

The activists said these posts should be filled with persons who can work across the state independently to protect the rights of children, without any bias or affiliation towards a particular political party.

The former chairperson of commission, K Naganna Gowda, was appointed by the BJP despite his name not being in the list of applicants, sparking a controversy. The appointments of Kripa Alva by the Congress and Umesha Aradhya by BJP to the commission had also raised eyebrows.

These appointments by both leading national parties have not only set a bad precedent but also politicised the institution, leaving no place to address the issues of children and women.

Child Rights Trust Executive Director Vasudev Sharma said, "The KSCPCR is a statutory body constituted under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. The Act prescribes the qualifications required to be appointed as the chairperson and members. The applicants should have at least 10 years of experience working in the field of child rights and must be aware of all the laws governing this subject, psychology of children and much more. However, at the last moment, all these criteria were manipulated and the parties in power appointed candidates of their choice."

Sharma said, "I was a member (of the commission) in its first term. Later, I applied for the post of chairperson and my name was shortlisted, but I was not appointed. Now, I have no interest in applying because we continue to do the required work for children independently on ground."

V Sushila, another child rights activist from Belagavi, said, "Usually the chairperson and members don't visit any other districts or departments except a few in Bengaluru. If they visit remote areas, they will also find many out-of-school children and rising teen pregnancies that we come across. Girls as young as 14 years are married off. The parents manipulate the girls' age on the Aadhaar card to avoid getting caught. The commission is bound to address these issues, but we have never seen that happening in so many years."

A video grab of children working at the Government Higher Primary School in Nelkundi village of Nagamangala taluk recently

Teachers in soup over forced child labour

MANDYA: The students at the Government Higher Primary School at Nelkundi village of Nagamangala taluk were forced to take the place of labourers for the construction of a road within the institution's premises recently. Reports said they were forced to carry stones, sand and cement and also to mix concrete using shovels and spades. Villagers confronted the teachers, asking whether they were trying to avoid hiring paid labourers. They also recorded videos of the act, which have since gone viral on social media, triggering public outrage. They said the teachers, when questioned, responded casually. When the villagers threatened to upload the videos on social media, the teachers relented, expressing concern that it could affect their jobs, and asked the children to stop the work. **ENS**

NIGHT-TIME WONDER

Folk artistes perform atop an illuminated monument in Hampi. A spectacular drone show also stole the spotlight on the Day 1 of the Hampi Utsav, drawing thunderous applause from a gathering of more than 1.5 lakh visitors | SHIVASHANKAR BANAGAR

Childhood cancers are highly treatable, early detection key: Experts

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

PAEDIATRIC oncology experts say that early recognition of symptoms, public education, and psychosocial support are critical to improving survival rates and ensuring treatment adherence. Lakshmi R. Varma, a paediatric oncology counsellor at Narayana Health said that many parents are unaware that even children can develop cancer. She emphasised that awareness initiatives in paediatric clinics, rural outreach programmes, and training primary care doctors, are essential to ensure early referral and reduce fear-driven delays, especially where tertiary care remains limited. She pointed out that several families still believe cancer is contagious, often leading to social isolation of affected children. Some view the diagnosis as a result of past wrongdoing or fate, which adds to stigma and delays timely medical care. Early symptoms such as persistent fever, fatigue, pallor, unexplained weight loss, frequent infections, or unusual swelling are often dismissed as routine childhood illnesses.

Dr Intezar Mehdi, Director of paediatric haematology oncology & BMT at HCG Cancer Hospital said, childhood cancers account for only two to five per cent of all cancer cases, but India's large child population still results in tens of thousands of diagnoses each year. "Out of every 10,000 children, one may develop cancer," he noted. The most common types are leukemia, lymphomas, brain tumours and bone tumours. Symptoms often overlap with common childhood conditions, making early detection challenging. Persistent lymph node swelling, localised bone pain, especially night pain and early morning headaches accompanied by vomiting are warning signs that require prompt medical attention, he added.

Helsa Ann George, pediatric psycho-oncologist at St. John's Medical College Hospital said, stigma surrounding cancer continues to lead to fear, denial, and treatment discontinuation. Psychosocial support teams help families cope with shock, guilt, and financial stress, enabling them to continue treatment and improving adherence.

Experts emphasise that childhood cancers are highly treatable, with cure rates of up to 80–85 per cent when diagnosed early. Early recognition, compassionate care, and accessible treatment can ensure that most children recover and lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

Cong rally against VB-G RAM G in Chikkaballapur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Benglauru

THE Congress is likely to turn its opposition to the Centre's VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, into a major political issue in the run-up to the zilla and taluk panchayat polls, as it intensifies a statewide agitation against the legislation that replaced the UPA-era MGNREGA.

As part of this campaign, the Congress has planned a protest in Chikkaballapur on February 23, where thousands of workers and supporters from the neighbouring districts, including Bengaluru Rural and Kolar, are expected to gather. Minister MC Sudhakar and several other leaders are coordinating the mobilisation against the Centre.

Former AICC general secretary MLC BK Hariprasad said, "BJP is seeking to roll back MGNREGA that will benefit the poor, we are agitating against it."

Congress MLC Ramesh Babu said nearly 60,000 protesters could take part, making it one of the largest political mobilisations in the region in recent months.

Congress leaders said the Chikkaballapur rally is part of a phased and expanding campaign across the state, pointing to earlier overnight demonstrations in Mysuru and a protest padayatra in Mangaluru as signs of growing momentum. They emphasised that the agitation is aimed at defending rural employment guarantees and opposing what they describe as a dilution of workers' rights under the new Act. It may be recalled that both the Assembly and Council had earlier passed an unanimous resolution urging the rollback of the VB-G RAM G Act.

ACCIDENT DEATH RELIEF

KSRTC relents after court seizes 2 buses

Hassan: The 4th additional court in Channarayapatna confiscated two KSRTC buses over the corporation's failure to release compensation to the kin of two persons killed in an accident in 2023. The two persons – Ravikumar and Renukappa – were killed on the spot after the KSRTC bus hit their motorcycle near Bediganahalli Gate on Bengaluru–Mangaluru National Highway 75. When the case came to the court in March 2025, the court ruled that the deaths happened because of the negligence of the KSRTC driver and ordered the corporation to pay Rs 20 lakh to the family of Renukappa and Rs 13 lakh to Ravikumar's kin as compensation. Immediately after the buses were confiscated, the KSRTC released 50% of the compensation amount and promised to pay the remaining at the earliest. On this assurance, the court agreed to release the buses. **ENS**

NISAR a boon for farmers, policy makers

The data with actionable intelligence is essential for sustainable agriculture, efficient irrigation and national food, water security

—ISRO team

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

OFFICIALS in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said the information being obtained from the two radars – S-Band and L-Band – on the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) is empowering farmers, planners, non-governmental entities and policy makers with consistent information.

The ISRO team on Saturday made public information pertaining to the soil moisture products at 100m resolution obtained from NISAR data and termed it as a national asset for agriculture. The officials said the information with actionable intelligence is essential for sustainable agriculture, efficient irrigation and national food and water security.

The data showed multiple full-swath 100m soil moisture products over various agro-climatic regions of India. They assessed the semi-arid and moisture stress conditions in western India, the irrigation-driven viability of northern India, including the Indo-Gangetic plains, and the rain-fed agricultural zones of central India.

The physics-based algorithm, developed at Space Applications Centre, ensures scientific robustness and operational accuracy, officials said. "The results confirm the operational readiness, scalability and reliability of NISAR's soil moisture products. They highlight the complementary strengths of the two frequencies, L-Band and S-Band, of NISAR for operational soil moisture retrieval. While L-band enables deeper penetration and improved sensitivity under vegetation and crop cover, S-band provides enhanced surface sensitivity and finer spatial detail," the teams said.

NISAR is systematically imaging the Indian landmass using the two frequencies to deliver high-resolution and wide swath data.

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 e-mail: md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No.	Tender ID	Item
1.	2026_KMML_834866_1	Supply of Uniform Cloths
2.	2026_KMML_834765_1	Fabrication and Supply of Recycle Gas Cooler
3.	2026_KMML_835744_1	Supply of rail for Clarifloculator with Connectors
4.	2026_KMML_834812_1	Supply of Aluminium Trihydrate-1104 MT
5.	2026_KMML_834790_1	Supply of Electric Hoists of various capacities
6.	2026_KMML_834747_1	Rubber Lining of Digester F&G
7.	2026_KMML_835615_1	Supply of Vegetables & Fruits
8.	2026_KMML_834917_1	AMC for Rubber Lining Jobs 2026-27
9.	2026_KMML_834892_1	AMC for FRP Jobs 2026-2028
10.	2026_KMML_835830_1	Providing & Operating JCB, Mini excavator & Tipper
11.	Tenders are invited for Sale of Unburned NPF PET Coke (waste). Last date of issue Tender is 10-03-2026. For more details, please visit www.kmml.com.	

Chavara 14.02.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

GOVT. OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, WATER RESOURCES ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
32001/92/2526 `e' Procurement Notice No. CEMKS 18 OF 2025-26

1. Name of the work : Cement Concrete Lining of Distributary 13 of Machhagaon Canal under MMCLY.
2. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.9,30,15,912.00**
3. Bid Document Cost : Rs.10, 000.00 (online)
4. E.M.D : **Rs.9,30,200/-**
5. Class of Contractor : "Special " Class & "A" Class
6. Period of Completion 18 calendar months
7. Other details are as follows

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
		From	To	
Chief Engineer & BM, Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar	CEMKS JSPR 01 of 2025-26	18.02.2026 10.00 hrs	05.03.2026 17.00 hrs	06.03.2026 11.00 hrs

8. e-mail Id : celmbbbsr@yahoo.co.in

Further detail conditions can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in The Corrigendum/ cancellation of Tender, if any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.

OIPR-32001/32252/1/25-26/0001 **Sd/- Chief Engineer & Basin Manager Mahanadi Kathajodi System Bhubaneswar**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.H. DIVISION KORAPUT
Tel/Fax - 06852 - 250740, e-mail - eephkrp@gmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" procurement Notice
13001/229/2526 e-procurement Notice for 2025-26
Bid Identification No.SE,P.H.KPT-15 of 2025-26 Dt.06.02.2026

1. No. of the work : 2 nos
2. Estimated Cost : From Rs.279.00 lakh to Rs.384.00 lakh (Approx.)
3. Period of completion : 8 months
4. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11.00 A.M. of 13.02.2026 to 05.00 P.M. of 25.02.2026
5. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal : 05.00 P.M. of 25.02.2026
6. Date & time of opening of bids : 11.00 A.M. of 26.02.2026
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Koraput

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "**https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**"

Sd/ (Er. Chiranjibi Mahali)
Superintending Engineer,
P.H. Division, Koraput

OIPR-13001/13008/1/25-26/0001

STATE BANK OF INDIA
HOME LOAN CENTRE, MALLESHWARAM (41161)
No. 97, Railway Parallel Road, Kumarapark West, Bangalore -560020
Ph : 080 25943732, 25943720. Fax : 080 25943729/3730
Email Id: racpc.bz1@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE Appendix IV (Under Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

A/c No: HL-37268571216, TL-37277211220

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the **State Bank of India** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **24.11.2025** and same was published in Two leading Newspaper **"The New Indian Express** and **Samyuktha Karnataka"** on 04.12.2025 and calling upon the **Borrower :Smt.Kajol U Bhogulkar** W/o Sri.Umesh V Bhogulkar No.8, Milk Colony, Near White House, Malleshwaram West, Bangalore-560055 And also at: i) Flat No.VH-YAM-B-1-203, 2nd Floor, 1st Block, 4th Yamuna Block, BDA Jnanabharathi Residential Enclave, Valagerahalli, Mysore Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560060 ii) No.330, 8th Main Road, "A" Block, 2nd Phase, Rajajingara, Subramanyanagara, Bangalore-560056 iii) L'Oreal Pvt. Ltd., Lotus Tower, 2nd Floor, Above Volvo Show Room, Race Course Road, Bangalore-560001 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice **Rs.10,04,679/-** (Rupees Ten lakhs four thousand six hundred and seventy nine only) as on 23.11.2025 + interest from 24.11.2025 + incidental charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s)/mortgager(s)/guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount demanded as per Demand Notice, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/ mortgager(s)/ guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on **11.02.2026.**

The borrower(s)/mortgager(s)/guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs.10,23,361/-** (Rupees Ten lakhs twenty three thousand three hundred and sixty one only) as on 10.02.2026 and interest from 11.02.2026 plus expenses thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Description of the Immovable Property : Schedule "A" Property (Yamuna Block B-1-203) All that piece and parcel of property Survey No. of Valagerahalli Village (90/1(P) to 108/2(P) comprising of land area of including building number 64 belonging to blocks 1 to 4 of Valagerahalli Phase-4 (Yamuna) Residential Complex of BDA Jnanabharathi Enclave, measuring East to West 60.00 meters and North to South 15.00 Meters totally measuring 900.00 Square Meters and **bounded on the: East by** : 80 Feet Road, **West by :** Yamuna Block 38, 37, 36, **North by :** Yamuna Block 7, 8, 9, **South by :** Ganga Phase-2 Block 1 to 4.

Schedule "B" Property : 34.46 Sq.Mtrs of undivided share, right, interest and ownership in a Schedule Property.

Schedule "C" Property : The entire residential Flat No. VH-YAM-B-1-203, situated on the 2nd Floor of the 1st Block of the 4th (Yamuna) residential complex of Valagerahalli Layout, constructed in Schedule "B" and the building super construction area of 34.46 Sq.Mtrs also includes the passages, lobby, stair cases and other common areas for use by all. The plot, when has a Brick/RCC Cement Wall, RCC Roof and doors and windows is provided with electricity, water and sanitation connections. The users of the residential units have the right to use them according to their intended use without encroaching on their legal rights and the flat is held in the name of "Smt.Kajol U Bhogulkar W/o Sri.Umesh V Bhogulkar" and **bounded on : East by :** Yamuna Block-B-1-202, **West by:** Yamuna Block-B-2-202, **North by:** Yamuna Block-B-1-204, **South by:** Pathway.

Absolute Sale Deed is registered on 14.03.2018 in favour of **"Smt.Kajol U Bhogulkar W/o Sri.Umesh V Bhogulkar"** in the office of SRO Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore in Book No.1 under Document No. BDA-1-08228/2017-18 and Stored in C.D No.BDAD235 dated 14.03.2018.

Date : 11.02.2026
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer and Chief Manager
State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre
Malleshwaram, Bangalore.

SMART ADS

FOR SALE

For sale **BDA 30x40** Anjanapura 5th G Block South facing also **40x60** west facing Anjanapura 2nd Block Comercial site

BANASHANKARI
6th stage 4th B Block **40x60** west Facing 2.10Cr also **40x60** South Facing 6th Block, 6th Stage, 2.20cr Behind 100ft Road, all owners site.

9945373839
9620041313

WANTED

HIRING MALE CANDIDATES BELOW 30, for a Delex Stereo Pvt Ltd
Qualification: 10th & PUC Pass, ITI or any Diploma.
Salary: **Rs.17000/-**
Contact:
9108458798/9845579620
Location: In and Around Rajajinagar.

CAREER OFFER

CAREER OFFER For Retd Govt officials, Self Employed, Banker, Professional, home makers Residing in/ around Bangalore only call for Registration.

98403-64426

The relatives of S Suraj (37), who died during the TVK functionaries' meeting in Salem on Friday, initially refused to receive his body after postmortem at the Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital, demanding compensation from the party

TN BJP chief receives brickbats for misogynist remarks against Vijay

Nagenthran also says Vijay lacks political experience, he has to be a good family man first

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

Nainar Nagenthran and Vijay

TAMIL Nadu BJP state president Nainar Nagenthran's remarks dragging the name of a leading actress to criticise actor and TVK president Vijay snowballed into a controversy on Saturday, with Assembly elections right around the corner.

Leaders from almost all political parties criticised him or expressed disappointment over the remarks while leaders of his own party could barely come forward in Nagenthran's support. Responding to a question on Vijay's speech in Salem on Friday, Nagenthran, in what he apparently thought as a remark made in jest, said Vijay lacked political experience and should first 'come out of the actress' house' and mend ties with his own family, implying that Vijay was in a relationship with the actress.

He also claimed that TVK did not even have a single councillor, countering the party's claim that it enjoys the support of over 30% of voters. "He has to first be a (good) family man and then he can lead a party," he said.

TVK joint general secretary Nirmal Kumar said it was unfortunate that a person holding a top post in a political party was making such uncivilised comments in public, and claimed that the BJP, which had polled fewer votes than NOTA in the past, would fare even worse in the upcoming elections as people had rejected the party.

BJP MLA and the party's national women's wing president Vanathi Srinivasan said on Saturday that Nagenthran was a soft-spoken leader and that it was regrettable he had made such a remark. Stating that she will convey her displeasure to him, she, however, said, "At the same time, DMK woman leaders speak very strongly about such issues, but I want to tell Kanimozhi and Congress leaders—members of their own parties are being harassed by men from within their parties." DMK parliamentary party leader Kanimozhi condemned Nagenthran's remarks, saying it reflected the BJP-RSS's "vile politics" of dragging women into attacks on men. "Even to criticise a man, they resort to insulting a woman in an uncivilised manner," she said in a post on X.

TNCC president K Selvaperunthagai said it was unfair to drag an actress and Vijay's personal life into politics when the BJP, as the ruling party at the centre, had several governance issues to address. Congress MP Jothimani sought a public apology from Nainar Nagenthran.

AMMK leader TT V Dhinakaran, who is part of the NDA alliance, said he stressed that refraining from commenting on a person's personal life was essential for healthy politics.

Rahul's policy is to lie: Shah at BJP rally in Puducherry

MOHAMED SALAHUDEEN B
@Karaikal

Union Home Minister Amit Shah being felicitated by Puducherry Home Minister Arumugam Namassivayam and others in Karaikal, Puducherry, on Saturday | PTI

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday expressed confidence of an NDA victory in Puducherry, claiming the BJP-led alliance would secure a clear majority of over 60% in the upcoming Assembly election.

"The people of Puducherry have faith in the BJP and the NR Congress. In the 2021 election, you gave us 44% votes. This time, with the BJP, NR Congress and AIADMK together, we will cross 60% and win 24 seats," he said, addressing a BJP public meeting, "Nallatchi Thodarattum, Pudhuvai Malarattum," at Sandhai ground in Karaikal.

Calling Rahul Gandhi a liar, Shah said trade agreements signed by Modi with the European Union, the UK, and the US would benefit fishermen and farmers and would not cause harm.

He said that during Modi's recent visit to Malaysia, the Prime Minister promised a Tiruvalluvar chair in a university there and scholarships in Tiruvalluvar's name for Malaysian Tamil students. He also said Tamil had received minority language status in Malaysia. Shah alleged that during the earlier Congress rule at the centre, Pakistan-based terrorists carried out attacks almost every day, and the Prime Minister, Home Minister, and Defence Minister failed to respond.

RTI activist challenges data protection law in SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A Bengaluru-based Right to Information (RTI) activist has approached the Supreme Court, challenging provisions of the data protection framework, arguing that recent changes could undermine transparency and accountability in governance.

Venkatesh Nayak, also Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), has filed the petition in his personal capacity, seeking a judicial review of certain provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and related rules notified in 2025. Nayak told *TNSE* that there are "serious anomalies" in the law that, if left unaddressed, could have long-term consequences for democratic oversight. "In its current form, the law can become another major impediment to journalists, as their ability to keep information sources confidential may be adversely affected," he said.

His petition particularly contests amendments to the Right to Information Act, 2005 through Section 44 of DPDP Act. The revised provision broadens the exemption for "personal information," potentially allowing authorities to deny access to a wide range of data.

He argued that the earlier law required officials to apply a three-part test before withholding information -- assessing whether the data related to public activity, whether disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy, and whether larger public interest justified release. The amendment, he contends, removes these safeguards and creates what he calls a "blanket bar" on disclosure. The petition warns that the new framework could shield information about beneficiaries of welfare programmes from public scrutiny under the pretext of privacy protection.

"Entire swathes of information relating to delivery of public services may become inaccessible, weakening social audits and accountability," Nayak said. He also expressed concern that RTI users and activists would find it difficult to seek accountability, as personal information contained in government records could become secret "by default"

Filed as a public interest petition, the plea contends that the contested provisions violate citizens' fundamental right to information. It challenges provisions granting exemptions to government agencies from data protection obligations, which could enable surveillance without adequate safeguards, the structure and appointment process of the Data Protection Boar. It alleges executive control over a body performing quasi-judicial functions and lack of statutory clarity in defining what constitutes a 'significant' data breach, which the plea says leaves room for arbitrary enforcement.

HONOURING VETERANS

Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president Jayamala (3rd from left) with veteran industry man B Gururaju and theatre artiste Pushpamala A Annigeri who won the SP Varadaraj Award in Bengaluru on Saturday. Author Baraguru Ramchandrappa, actors Shiva Rajkumar, Geeta, Raghavendra Rajkumar, Ambika and Ramakrishna are present | VINOD KUMAR T

BU, KSHEC hold faculty skill dvpt programme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Bengaluru University's Jnanabharathi campus, in collaboration with the Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), organised a Faculty Skill Development Programme for professors and assistant professors of the university and its affiliated colleges. Prof T D Kemparaju, member of KSHEC, said technology and Artificial Intelligence tools have increasingly permeated the education sector, making it imperative to redefine the higher education system.

"Through technology-driven, quality-oriented and skill-based education, we can build a competitive society," he said.

He noted a significant gap between societal development, industry requirements and the skills imparted to students by the education sector.

"In today's competitive world, creativity and innovation are essential. By adopting a knowledge- and skill-based curriculum, modern evaluation methods, efficient administrative systems, student-centric approaches and innovative teaching methodologies, and by strengthening research and learning practices, the quality of education can be enhanced," he added. Vice-Chancellor Dr Jayakara S M, Registrar K T Shanthala, PM-USHA Nodal Officer Prof V Sudesh and others were present.

ED ATTACHES IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES WORTH ₹17 CR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has provisionally attached 11 immovable properties belonging to the president and CEO of Srivaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamitha Cooperative Society having a market value of Rs. 16.95 crore on Thursday.

The attached properties were bought by the accused persons from the money generated through criminal activity. The attached immovable properties include land, plots and buildings situated in Ramanagara, Mysuru and Bengaluru.

ED initiated the investigation after an FIR was registered by the Subramanyapura police against the society president, CEO and others. The 11 immovable properties belong to society's president BS Nagavalli and CEO Rajesh VR.

The FIR was registered on the basis of complaint filed by the Managing Director, Karnataka State Federal Co-Operative Limited, alleging that the society had sanctioned

loans to the entities owned by Rajesh and Nagavalli, husband and wife, without obtaining proper surety and the same loan amount has not been repaid by the entities. The key person of the entity has caused wrongful loss to its depositors for their own benefit by misusing their post and power, an ED press release stated.

During the investigation under PMLA, various other FIRs and chargesheets were filed by the police against the accused society and its key management personnel.

Rajesh and Nagavalli incorporated the co-operative Society in 2011. They in collusion with other accused persons/entities, majority of which were opened by them, diverted deposits of the public amounting to around Rs. 65 crore and thus generated Proceeds of Crime. A major part of this Proceeds of Crime was routed in their personal accounts and in the accounts of the fictitious entities opened by them for the purpose of money laundering. The diverted amount was further utilised for their personal gain such as purchase of immovable properties, investment in business and personal consumption etc, the press release added.

SUDERSHAN REDDY FOR RAJYA SABHA?

Hyderabad: With two Rajya Sabha seats from Telangana set to fall vacant within the next two months, the Congress is actively considering nominating former Supreme Court judge and INDIA bloc's Vice-Presidential candidate **B Sudershan Reddy** for one of the seats, according to party sources. The move is being seen as a key development as the high command weighs names with national stature and Telangana roots. Sources said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy discussed Sudershan Reddy's possible nomination with the party leadership during his recent visit to Delhi, though it is yet to be known whether he would be willing to contest. At the same time, senior Supreme Court advocate and AICC leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi is likely to be renominated. Singhvi was elected unopposed in a byelection in August 2024 to fill a truncated two-year term, and party sources indicated that he is being considered for a full term. Other names doing the rounds include the chief minister's close aide Vem Narender Reddy. **ENS**

Consulate in touch with kin and local authorities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

SREENIVASAIAH told *TNSE*, "Our son's housemate, who studies with him at the University of California, complained at the Berkeley police station about Saketh going missing. We later tried to reach out to the police, but they have responded only twice. That is also because of the time difference between the two countries and the system that exists in the USA."

He said, "We wrote to the chief minister, requesting help from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian embassy in the USA. Constant coordination will help us trace Saketh. We tried calling Saketh's number, but the WhatsApp call only rings. There has been no response so far." Sreenivasaiah, who hopes to trace his missing son, said, "According to the housemate, my son left for college on February 10, but instead went to a nearby park. His bag and wallet were recovered from the park. He is a bright boy and flew to the US in February 2025 to pursue MS."

In her letter to Misri, Shalini Rajneesh requested all necessary assistance, including coordination with local law enforcement agencies through the consul general of India in San Francisco to help the family.

The Consulate General of India in San Francisco on X said, "Consulate General of India in San Francisco is deeply concerned about the disappearance of Saketh Sreenivasaiah, an Indian postgraduate student of UC Berkeley, hailing from the State of Karnataka. The Consulate is in touch with the family and also is in contact with authorities."

Christ University launches B Com in Financial Analytics at Pune Lavasa campus

Bengaluru: Christ University has launched a four-year undergraduate programme — B Com in Financial Analytics — at its Pune Lavasa campus in collaboration with NSE Academy. Aligned with the NEP 2020, the course offers flexible pathways for Honours and Research specialisations. The programme focuses on industry-relevant skills such as algorithmic trading, fintech and machine learning, and integrates professional certifications within the curriculum. Students will gain training in Python and R, supported by simulations and mandatory internships. **ENS**

Nitrate remains high in Mandya: Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

THE 2025-26 data indicate a sharper contraction in both chemical and bacteriological non-compliance. Total nitrate-affected samples fell from 4,003 in 2023-24 to 3,129 in 2024-25 and 2,224 so far in 2025-26. Fluoride cases declined from 2,269 to 1,647 and then 1,169. Bacteriological contamination reduced dramatically, with E. coli cases dropping to 315 and total coliform to 333 across the state so far this year.

Yet, certain districts continue to show stress. In 2025-26, nitrate remains high in Mandya (336), Vijayapura (264), Koppal (285), Belagavi (230), Chitradurga (214) and Chikkaballapur (212). Fluoride persists in Chitradurga (241), Vijayapura (171), Raichur (125) and Tumakuru (100). Microbial contamination, though far lower overall, is still visible in Bidar (48 E. coli; 48 coliform), Kalaburagi (64; 64), Yadgir (53; 55) and Raichur (45; 45).

Districts such as Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and parts of Bengaluru Rural show minimal or negligible contamination across most parameters in the latest year's data. Bengaluru Urban saw high microbial contamination in 2023-24, which declined in 2024-25 and dropped to negligible levels in '25-26, with only isolated chemical non-compliance reported.

The Centre has said Karnataka has reported regular remedial measures, routine disinfection, district-level task forces and the use of community water purification plants in affected habitations.

EXPRESS READ

Dad, cousin arrested in Kerala for sexually assaulting minor girl

Alappuzha: The father and cousin of a 14-year-old girl were arrested for sexually assaulting her over the years in this coastal district. Police added that, apart from the girl's father and cousin, two more persons are accused of sexually assaulting her at different times and are absconding. They said four separate cases have been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against the accused, as the incidents of sexual assault occurred on different dates. The search is on for the remaining two accused, police said. The incidents of sexual assault occurred over four years in the Punnapra area of the district, they added. The girl was sexually assaulted when she was eight years old by her maternal uncle, who was arrested and later died by suicide when he came out on bail, police said. Subsequently, the girl was living in a home run by the child welfare committee. **PTI**

Sabarimala gold loss case investigation in final stage: DGP

T'puram: Kerala state police chief Ravada Chandrasekhar on Saturday said the investigation being carried out by the SIT into the Sabarimala gold loss case is in its final stage and is progressing in a proper manner. The probe is conducted under the supervision of the High Court, which is closely monitoring the investigation. **ENS**

TN woman abducts newborn from hospital to deceive her family

Tiruchy: Posing as a pregnant patient, a 38-year-old woman befriended a new mother and abducted her four-day-old baby boy from Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital in Tiruchy on Saturday. Within six hours of the incident, the suspect S Meenatchi (38) was arrested from her native in Thammampatti in Salem district around 1 pm, and the newborn rescued. **ENS**

80 professionals attend K'taka IACC walkathon

ENS @Bengaluru

MORE than 80 professionals from diverse sectors participated in the Walkathon 2026 organised by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), Karnataka Chapter, at Cubbon Park on Saturday. The event combined physical activity with informal networking, reflecting a growing preference for wellness-oriented professional engagements in the business community.

The walkathon began at 8 am with a guided 3–5 km walk through the park's central avenues. The participants were paired to encourage one-on-one conversations. This enabled attendees to interact beyond the usual business settings and exchange ideas across industries. Many participants said the relaxed environment made discussions more open and productive.

IACC Karnataka Chapter Chairman Gerald Manoharan, South India Regional President Prabhu Bala and others attended the event. The walk concluded with a networking breakfast, highlighting an emerging trend among industry bodies to integrate wellbeing with professional engagement, moving beyond conventional conference-based interactions.

"You don't play for revenge, you play for respect and pride" — Rahul Dravid

IT STOCKS, JOBS, AI FEARS: 'ATTENTION' IS WHAT MATTERS

THE decimation of tech and software stock valuations underlines the risks first stated by Alan Turing. This week, the market and IT shares came face to face with their Minsky moment, the tipping point when fears becomes a reality. In less than two trading days, India's IT shares lost nearly ₹3 lakh crore of market cap and marquee stocks like TCS and Infosys lost nearly a third of their worth, pushing them back closer to 2022 levels.

It isn't just in India. Globally, software and services companies lost trillions of dollars in market value—ServiceNow is down 28 percent year to date, Salesforce 26 percent and Intuit over 34 percent. Tech-Software exchange traded fund slid 20 percent and the MSCI World Software & Services Index was down over 12 percent. Punters coined new phrases—SaaSpocalypse, SaaSmageddon—to define the collapse. The bullishness of 2023, when analysts goaded investors to load up on software stocks, has been replaced by the bearish 'AI discount'.

Theory oftentimes waits for attention and tangible evidence. As early as 2017, computer scientist Ashish Vaswani, along with seven colleagues, told the world, 'Attention is all you need.' The transformative concept of 'attention mechanism' led to the launch of ChatGPT. The threat to human interface in software services has been a constant presence. Yet, nobody quite bet against legacy giants—after all, as Hemingway says in *The Old Man and the Sea*, "It is silly not to hope." Claude Code replaced hope with pessimism and dread, resulting in a one-way trail in valuations.

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

The success of Claude Code and Claude Cowork illustrates the power of the mathematical breakthrough of 2017. The retrenching of human interface represents a structural shift. The migration—from the earlier autocomplete era to the automated engineer era—is tectonic in every sense. Consider this: earlier, the machine was a co-participant in a process enabling faster coding. Now the machine runs the code, sees the error and self-corrects until it works. The migration from CPU to GPU-based coding accelerates the shift from per-hour billing to outcome fees.

The fall in stock prices is the headline this week, but that isn't the big news. IT and IT enabled services are India's largest exporters, bringing in nearly $300 billion. It was also the largest formal employer till recently and is the force multiplier for consumption across sectors. It is useful to remember that just the software segment employs over 50 lakh people. Now the risk is two-fold—a slowdown in hiring and loss of employment. The quantum change is already visible. Soon after the advent of generative AI, a survey showed 80 percent of CEOs were planning to deploy AI—not just in services, but in manufacturing too.

The ability of machines to complete tasks has wiped out thousands of entry-level jobs across sectors—from software companies and law firms to consultancies and even creative shops. Unsurprisingly, in the US the unemployment rate for young workers (22-27 years) is over 7.8 percent. In India, the top five IT companies could altogether add just 17 recruits to their combined rolls in the first nine months of 2025. It is true that the transition could trigger demand in other areas—for instance, as AI architects. But it will drive down volumes and lead to a collapse in entry-level coding roles.

The entry of machines is already upending business models across sectors. The secondary effects of the slowdown or stalling of graduate hirings could well trigger a white-collar recession in consumption. For the record, since the launch of ChatGPT in 2022, the world has added over 1.1 billion AI users, over a fifth of them on ChatGPT.

The transition isn't *sui generis* or driven only by private sector innovation. The push towards automation is also a geopolitical objective for the US. Post 9/11, America redesigned policies to enable energy independence. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 under George W Bush allowed tapping of shale oil and gas fields. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 created a corpus of $25 billion for research. The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act under Barack Obama furthered energy independence. In 2017, the US emerged as the top oil producer.

The focus on automation and autonomous processes is not an accident either. It is the route to shrinking dependence on 'imported labour' and migration. The DARPA Grand Challenge in 2003 led to the creation, in 2006, of the CISE-IIS Division of Information and Intelligent Systems for research in human-computer interaction. In 2016, the US National Semiconductor Technology Center unveiled a strategic plan for "investments in the next generation of AI" and "develop effective methods for human-AI collaboration" through a network of AI institutes. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provided room for companies to invest by providing 100 percent depreciation—while wages are taxed (payroll tax), machines deliver tax cuts (depreciation).

This week, the government of India is hosting the AI Impact Summit. The guest list is impressive, but what is the focus? Can the ministers forge partnerships for AI-enabled solutions—gathering data for preventive healthcare, curbing air pollution, addressing teaching deficiencies, fixing farm linkages including using geospatial capacity to inform farmers, moving from flyover fixation to easing last-mile mobility in cities? There is no disputing that the fears of AI's impact are real. This calls for rethinking policies. While doing so, it would be useful to remember 'attention' matters.

TRUST WILL DEFINE DHAKA'S NEW ERA

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

IN the unforgiving geometry of South Asian power, geography is destiny and memory is never inert. Few frontiers embody this truth more starkly than the 4,000-km arc binding India to Bangladesh. Bangladesh is not merely India's neighbour; it is the eastern fulcrum of India's continental security, the custodian of shared waters that irrigate half a billion lives, and the gateway to the Bay of Bengal's widening strategic theatre. What transpires in Dhaka therefore reverberates far beyond its deltaic plains. It recalibrates the balance of power in the subcontinent and tests New Delhi's diplomatic agility, moral consistency and strategic patience.

Last week, Bangladesh delivered a verdict that reverberated like a seismic shift. Tarique Rahman's BNP seized an overwhelming mandate, capturing 212 of the 299 declared seats and a two-thirds majority. The Mohammed Yunus-led interim administration, born of the 2024 Gen Z uprising that toppled Sheikh Hasina, has been consigned to history. After more than three decades of female dominance, a male PM assumes office. Jamaat-e-Islami, once a reluctant ally, now leads the opposition benches with almost 70 seats. Yet, the true measure of the verdict lies in its crushing rejection of fundamentalist forces, who managed a mere six seats.

PM Narendra Modi clearly recognised that new reality. Within hours of the result crystallising, he was among the first heads of government to telephone Rahman and extend congratulations, underscoring India's readiness to work with a democratic, stable and inclusive Bangladesh. The initiative was India's way of steadying the waters before speculation hardened into suspicion.

For media mavens, it was a merciless national inquisition into the savagery of the post-Hasina interlude, a binding referendum on minority sanctity, and a thunderous affirmation of a Bangladesh First doctrine centred on economic reform, pragmatic governance and national renewal. The path to this outcome was paved with innocent blood and poisoned by betrayal. After Hasina's fall in August 2024, Bangladesh descended into a calculated reign of terror against its religious minorities. Global institutions recorded over 2,000 assaults on Hindus and other minorities in the first 100 days alone, with murders, temple burnings and orchestrated expulsions sending thousands fleeing into India.

AP

A United Nations inquiry, invited by Yunus himself, tore apart the regime's denials and confirmed targeted campaigns against Hindus, Ahmadiyas and some indigenous groups. The spectacle of displaced families, ruined shrines and hunted worshippers on Indian screens turned bilateral ties into a cauldron of resentment. India's sheltering of ousted PM Hasina only deepened the rift.

However, Rahman, returning from 17 years of exile in London after his mother Khaleda Zia's death, cast himself as the restorer of sovereignty. On the campaign trail, he spoke of a reborn Bangladesh that would heal fractures. In a defining address, he declared the nation a shared inheritance of hills and plains, of Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians, insisting that every citizen must walk the streets unafraid. That message, fused with a fear of Jamaat rule, produced a profound realignment. In nearly three dozen Hindu-majority constituencies, once Awami League strongholds, the 9 percent Hindu electorate swung decisively to the BNP. They saw Rahman's party as the only viable shield against the networks that had terrorised them for 18 months.

The result forged an improbable coalition: minorities seeking safety, youth demanding dignity and jobs, and conservative Muslims rejecting both hereditary rule and Western tutelage. The Islamist challenge, however, is far from vanquished. Jamaat and its allies control 77 seats and retain a hardened ideological machine. More ominously, they secured their strongest support in constituencies bordering India. This geographic concentration carries grave implications. It risks encouraging illegal infiltration across the porous frontier and could provide fertile ground for elements seeking to launch attacks on Indian territory. Rahman must act with unyielding resolve to prevent any such slide.

For Bangladesh's minorities, the BNP victory offers a fragile hope. Rahman has promised to restore order and enshrine the safety of all faiths as a core State duty. For India, the stakes could not be higher. The slaughter of Hindus has scarred mutual trust. New Delhi watched in alarm as pogroms spread and refugees crossed the border, creating political storms in sensitive states. The asylum granted to Hasina, though defensible, was weaponised to paint India as the enemy. Relations collapsed, from stalled water talks to cultural boycotts and last month's extraordinary decision by the Bangladesh Cricket Board to shun matches on Indian soil for the T20 World Cup, a move Pakistan initially joined. Cricket, once a bridge, became another battlefield. Yet, Modi's swift recognition of Rahman's mandate has cracked open a door for recalibration.

For India, the new leadership's conduct would be the decisive factor. Should Rahman safeguard minorities, deliver justice for the 2024-25 atrocities and ensure Bangladesh never again harbours anti-India rebels. It must ensure that a new era of pragmatic partnership becomes possible, spanning trade, energy, connectivity and border security. The future of India-Bangladesh ties will rest on three unyielding conditions. To begin, Rahman must visibly sever links with extremist elements and deny sanctuary to Indian insurgents. In addition, Dhaka must pursue a transactional relationship based on mutual strategic and economic benefit, rejecting the trans-border confrontation that has repeatedly poisoned the well. Finally, Bangladesh must assert its sovereign identity with confidence while acknowledging India's indispensable regional role.

The two nations are bound by geography, history and shared destiny in ways ideology cannot erase. Bangladesh would be wise to reject the Pakistan model of endless confrontation, a road that turned a proud nation into a failed State and perpetual beggar, forever seeking doles from foreign patrons. Bangladesh has already travelled a wiser path through decades of relative peace with its giant neighbour. With India and Bangladesh aligned, the delta can emerge as a powerhouse of growth, connectivity and stability.

At home, the BNP's commanding majority gives Rahman the space to govern boldly. His early ban on victory processions was a wise signal of restraint. If he honours his pledges of inclusion, restores confidence and charts a foreign policy that balances sovereignty with pragmatic engagement toward India, then this nation of 170 million can enter an era of stability and assertive diplomacy. India will find in Dhaka a partner that strengthens regional order rather than undermines it. How Rahman navigates justice, nationalism and governance will determine whether Bangladesh becomes a pillar of strength for New Delhi or a perpetual source of peril.

CHATGPT AND THE REPUBLIC OF NODDIES

INTEREST FREE

SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA
Editor
santwana@newindianexpress.com

THE venue matters in Delhi. When the architecture tends towards grandeur, expect the signalling to match up. When Bharat Mandapam fills up, the Republic is rarely discussing potholes or the price of tomatoes. It is usually dealing with the grand arc of a nation's destiny—preferably in bullet points and with a catchy logo. This time, it's not just one nation but all of humanity that's searching for a Noah's Ark.

From February 16-20, destiny answers to the name 'India AI Impact Summit 2026'. It's an attention-grabber. Presidents, prime ministers and sheikhs from the terrestrial world will shake hands with heads of state from a stateless Xanadu. Crewneck-clad aristocrats like Sam Altman and Sundar Pichai will be there. And the older Bill Gates, who needs a bit of ayurvedic ego massage after all the stress of being named in the Epstein files.

Listening to them will be delegates from a hundred countries: local industry barons, mandarins and policy mavens, tech researchers and evangelists, as well as the occasional professional sceptic. Thank god for the last one. For, the general picture will somewhat resemble the famous photo from Hamburg 1936. They will be discussing machines that learn and humans who nod. Everyone will be nodding. We need at least the odd head that shakes.

Why will everyone be nodding? Because no one knows any better about AI. Even the top frontier researchers in artificial intelligence haven't the foggiest about how the darn machine thinks. But they know how to make them, and make them bigger and bigger, even if we need to blow up the earth to produce enough energy to run them. Maybe that's what they mean by 'technology solution'. Just look at the future plans of Elon Musk or Peter Thiel. They're not planning on hanging around for too long.

So when do we secede from reality too? We could ask ChatGPT. For the record, India has a 'knowledge partner', one of the Big Four in global consultancy. Another one from that elite set was recently caught peddling a report written by ChatGPT to the Australian government, so whatever they say must be right. You must practise nodding, perfecting the form. It's a critical future skill.

It's still not clear who owns the copyright to something written by an AI model. The end-stage author? The platform? The LLM? Or a mashed up collective of dead authors? That's why policymakers will promise 'guardrails', the fashionable new word. Entrepreneurs will promise 'disruption', another word that went from negative to a positive in management jargon but is again looking menacing. Somewhere between keynote optimism and panel fatigue, India will attempt to narrate its transition—from a hive of software drone bees to a 'cognitive power', powered by chyawanprash.

We have announced our 'arrival' before. The IT revolution, such as it was, gave us global recall and the Americans made enough sitcoms with Indian tech bros that they've shut down H-1B visas. But digital payments still gives us bragging rights—even if it's just based on standard open-source web plumbing, no one can do scale like India can, can they now? Thank bad governance from the past for the failure of population control missions. That's our tech edge.

All heads will nod in unison at the AI summit in Delhi. Meanwhile, AI workers who realised that their job consisted of making the tools for their own obsolescence, are sounding the alarm

But artificial intelligence is different. Did any doomscrolling of late? The shock and awe was not coming from dockyard workers or tendu patta pluckers. It's AI workers who were sounding the alarm. They've just arrived at the shattering realisation that their everyday office job consisted of making the tools for their own obsolescence. The coders are the new dodos. Masters of enterprise resource planning are the proofreaders. Not too long ago, they were the bride. SaaS *bhi kabhi bahu thhi*.

For three decades, India's superpower aspirations rested on evocations of this transnational 'creamy layer'. But AI may turn that into Dalda. Our tech giants, denied the low-hanging fruit on which they made their billions, are hoping to scramble atop the gravy train by "integrating AI" into their product suites. Maybe they can fool our local barons for a while. Truth is, even our 'sovereign AI' is just repurposed open-source AI. No point screaming about who discovered zero first. We are in danger of rediscovering it.

But wait. There's hope. Suddenly our greatest historic inconvenience—too many languages, too many behavioural patterns, too many ways of cooking the khichdi—is beginning to look like strategic depth. What planners once called chaos, AI engineers now see as 'training data'. We are the oil.

So the summit will speak of multilingual AI, inclusion, digital public infrastructure, ethics. But underneath it will be a slightly affronted national pride: the future should not arrive in India subtitled. We should at least dub it. You must not miss the irony that will float unsaid, but politely present, over the proceedings.

For centuries India valorised simple living because it went with high thinking. Thinking was not about productivity. It was immersion. Participation. Debate was not a television programme to be monetised. It was a good in itself. Disagreement was at the heart of our civilisation. That's what made the world listen to us. With liberalisation, thinking became employability, learning became mobility, knowledge became competitive advantage.

Artificial intelligence may now make it optional. The best hope right now is that we can somehow make a blockbuster pastiche of the world's best. The *Sholay* of AI, if you will. Nod if you like.

QUOTE CORNER

We have seen bank officials completely hand in gloves with the accused in these cases of digital arrest. These banks are becoming a liability. They should know that they are a trustee of the money and should not get over-excited with it. That trust should not be broken. Problem is these banks give loans to fraudsters and then the National Company Law Tribunal comes into the picture.

Chief Justice Surya Kant, hearing a *suo motu* case on digital arrests

I have begun confidential talks with the French President on European nuclear deterrence... We will not allow zones of differing security to emerge in Europe.

Friedrich Merz, German Chancellor, at the Munich Security Conference

We have no reason to believe that the agreements between Russia and India that have been reached at the highest level, as well as at the governmental level, are at any risk.

Sergey Lavrov, Russian foreign minister, at the Duma on Indian oil purchases

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Supporting schools

Ref: *Giving back, for old times' sake* (Feb 14). It is good to note that donations made by the alumni to their universities are on the increase. It will make reputed colleges, which also get government aid, financially stronger. Philanthropists can alternatively focus on primary and middle schools located in rural and remote areas, which still lag in basic infrastructure like classrooms, drinking water, electricity and washrooms, and help them create an environment conducive for studying.

R V Baskaran, Pune

Telangana sweep

Ref: *Local body polls set stage for battle of Hyderabad* (Feb 14) The Congress leveraged incumbency, welfare delivery and grassroots networks to do well at the municipal polls. BRS and BJP struggled with weak organisations and split votes. They can recover in the assembly elections if they rebuild cadre strength and present a credible state-level vision.

P V Prakash, Mumbai

Failing farmers

Ref: *'Bring a privilege motion, I will fight for farmers'* (Feb 12). The Parliament session laid bare two troubling realities: the government's disregard for farmers and intolerance of dissent. The suspension of opposition MPs for raising questions about the India-US trade agreement is not just undemocratic, it is dangerous. Parliament is meant to be a forum for debate, not a place where elected representatives are punished for speaking up. At the heart of this debate are India's farmers, who fear that the trade deal will expose them to subsidised imports that threaten to devastate rural incomes. Farmers are demanding fairness, protection and respect. When MPs are silenced for defending them, it sends a chilling message: that livelihoods matter less than political convenience. Rahul Gandhi's support underscores the urgent need for transparency, accountability and farmer-centric policymaking.

Firdhouse M K, Malappuram

Dhaka's turn

Ref: *BNP landslide* (Feb 14). BNP's win and Tarique Rahman's return may be viewed in India as strategically significant developments. Modi was the first global leader to extend congratulations, signalling New Delhi's readiness to engage constructively. A stable and cooperative bilateral relationship remains critical for India, particularly in addressing concerns over illegal migration and safeguarding the sensitive Siliguri Corridor.

K Venkatasubramanian, Chennai

Parents' failure

Ref: *Hosakote accident: Underage driving raises many questions* (Feb 14). My heart cried on knowing about this terrible happening. Seven families lost their dearest ones. But I would put the blame squarely on the parents of the children, for they miserably failed in their primal duties. It is surprising they didn't know that the youngsters had not come home for the night. It is because of ostentatious living, lack of supervision, and total abdication of all responsibilities. When police find underage drivers, their parents should be punished too.

V H Subramoney, Bengaluru

Unconditional grants

Ref: *Stalin announces massive financial benefits* (Feb 13). Freebies are ruinous after a certain limit. The rural jobs scheme is good because you pay with labour and get money for survival in return. But unconditional cash transfers to garner votes will ultimately lead to the people's suffering. The US attracts most students from across the world. Why? Because of its A-class universities. Why doesn't India have them? No money even to pay teachers.

R Ganesan, Chennai

Seva spirit

Ref: *New corner office for the PM* (Feb 14). The shifting of the PMO to 'Seva Teerth' symbolises a break from colonial legacy. The first decisions from the office reflect the pillars of Viksit Bharat. The PM's call to reflect daily on easing citizens' lives depends on every entrant living the spirit.

R S Narula, Patiala

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Published by **N Gopalan** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 27, No. 7 RNI Reg. No. KARENG\2000\03040. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Mamata Banerjee @MamataOfficial
Valentine's Day is a celebration of love in all forms & manifestations, in its widest and noblest sense; love that transcends caste, creed, class and religion.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra @priyankagandhi
The mandate in Telangana local body elections reflects people's trust in a Congress govt that listens, cares, and acts with compassion.

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath
Salutations to all the brave sons of Mother India who made the supreme sacrifice in the cowardly terrorist attack in Pulwama.

3 rly projects worth ₹18.5K crore cleared

Cabinet approves major infra projects, including country's first underwater road-cum-rail tunnel in Brahmaputra

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Union Cabinet on Saturday approved mega infrastructure projects, including three under the Ministry of Railways entailing a cost of approximately ₹48,250 crore.

The railway projects include the construction of third and fourth lines between Kasara-Manmad, Delhi-Ambala, and Ballari-Hosapete, covering 12 districts across the states of Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. This was the last time on Friday evening the Cabinet met in the iconic South Block. The approval was also accorded to the construction of four-lane access-controlled greenfield connectivity from Gohpur on National Highway (NH) 15 to Numaligarh on the 715 section, including 15.79 km of road-cum-rail tunnel under the River Brahmaputra.

The project will be developed at a cost of ₹18,662 crore in Assam. This will be the first underwater road-cum-rail tunnel in India and the second in the world. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said that capacity of the lines would be created as per the requirement. According to the statement issued by the government, the projects are planned under the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan, with a focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistics efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations.

Currently travelling between Numaligarh on NH715 and Gohpur on NH 15 in Assam through the existing Kaliabhomora Road Bridge takes six hours. To address these challenges, a four-lane access-controlled greenfield connectivity from Gohpur to Numaligarh with a road-cum-rail tunnel in the Brahmaputra River is planned. The project will provide significant benefit to Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and other northeastern states, as it will enhance the efficiency of freight movement, reducing logistics costs and driving socio-economic growth in the region.

One of the road projects approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs CCEA is the rehabilitation and upgradation of the Ghoti–Trimbak (Mokhada–Jawhar–Manor–Palghar section of NH 160A in Maharashtra). The about 154-km-long project will cost ₹3,320 crore. It will help in decongesting the region around Ambad and Satpur in Nasik, which hosts a dense cluster of industrial units. At present, this traffic moves through Nashik city via NH 848, adding pressure on urban roads.

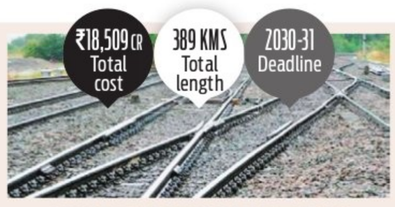
The Committee also approved a project for the construction of four-lane sections of Dhamasiya-Bitada/Movi (47.46 km) and Nasarpore-Malotha (60.21 km) in Gujarat with a total project length of 107.67 km with a cost of ₹4583.64 crore.

The project is a part of NH 56, which starts at Nimbahera in the state of Rajasthan and traverses through Dahod District in Gujarat, Alirajpur District in the state of Madhya Pradesh and then re-enters Gujarat near Chhota Udepur District, terminating at its junction with NH 48 near Vapi.

The proposal for widening of National Highway 167 from Gudebellur to Mahabubnagar on the Hyderabad-Panaji Economic Corridor has also been approved. The 80.01 km-long project will cost ₹3175.08 crore.

One of the significant decisions taken by the Cabinet is the launch of the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) with a total central assistance of ₹1 lakh crore. The financial assistance by the Centre will cover 25% of the project cost, subject to raising a minimum of 50% of the project cost from the market.

This was announced by the government in last year's budget. Through the scheme, the Centre will support transformative and bankable urban projects through competitive "challenge mode".



3 MULTI-TRACKING RAIL PROJECTS
DELHI, HARYANA, MAHA AND KARNATAKA

Routes to get 3rd & 4th lines	BENEFITS
Delhi-Ambala	Travel convenience
Kasara-Manmad	Reduced logistics cost
Ballari-Hosapete	Lower CO_2 emissions
	Sustainable rail operations

ROAD-CUM-RAIL TUNNEL IN BRAHMAPUTRA

- 1st underwater channel
- Joins NH 15 and NH 715
- Provides seamless connectivity to key economic, social, and logistics nodes in Assam

URBAN CHALLENGE FUND

- Projects under this fund to be selected for transformative impact, sustainability and reform orientation
- Funding to be linked to reforms, milestones and defined outcomes
- Paperless monitoring
- Expected investment of ₹4L cr in urban sector in next five years

THIS WAS THE LAST TIME ON FRIDAY EVENING THE CABINET MET IN THE ICONIC SOUTH BLOCK

TARIQUE RAHMAN

17-YEAR EXILE TO EXECUTIVE—LONG MARCH TO POWER

JAYANTH JACOB

WHEN Tarique Rahman rose to address supporters after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's sweeping victory, his tone was measured, almost reflective. Victory, he said, was not a triumph to be brandished but a responsibility to be borne.

"Our paths and opinions may differ. But in the interest of the country, we must remain united," he said. In a nation long defined by fierce political rivalry, the incoming Prime Minister's first message was not of cohesion. National unity, he insisted, would be the government's collective strength; division, its undoing.

At 60, Rahman steps into office as both a familiar and contested figure—heir to one of Bangladesh's most powerful political families and survivor of years of exile, imprisonment and political isolation. His ascent marks the return of the centre-right BNP to executive power with a commanding majority, a mandate he acknowledged carries its own perils. Supermajorities, he warned, can breed arrogance and democratic backsliding. His party, he said, would remember that lesson from history.

Rahman's life has unfolded in the long shadow of his parents. His father, Ziaur Rahman, a military ruler-turned-president, founded BNP in 1978 after emerging as a leading figure in Bangladesh's war of independence. He was assassinated in a failed coup in 1981, when Tarique was a teenager. His mother, Khaleda Zia, would go on to become the country's first female prime minister, serving two terms and shaping an era of combative two-party politics.

If lineage opened doors, it also sharpened his struggle. Rahman joined BNP in 1988, cutting his teeth during the anti-Ershad movement and campaigning nationwide ahead of the landmark 1991 election that restored parliamentary democracy. He pushed internal party elections by secret ballot, promoting democratic practice within local structures.

His elevation in 2002 to a senior party role drew accusations of nepotism from opponents. Critics portrayed him as an enforcer of party discipline, a "hatchet man" who wielded influence behind the scenes. Allegations of corruption would follow, charges he denied. Supporters argued he was a convenient scapegoat in a system where politics and prosecution were often entwined.

The most turbulent chapter came in 2007, during a military-backed caretaker government. Rahman was arrested on corruption charges and spent 18 months in prison. He later alleged that he was tortured while in custody. Upon release, he left for London, entering what would become a 17-year exile. Reports suggested he had pledged to withdraw from politics; instead, distance seemed to refine his resolve.

From abroad, Rahman remained a gravitational force within BNP. After the incarceration of his mother amid a sweeping crackdown by the then-ruling Awami League under Sheikh Hasina, he helped steady a demoralised party. He promoted younger leaders, reorganised grassroots networks and kept morale alive when BNP men faced arrests and intimidation.

NEWSMAKER

When a student-led anti-quota movement erupted, Rahman extended support. Following Hasina's fall, he backed the formation of an interim administration led by Muhammad Yunus. Though pressing for a time-bound reform agenda and elections within 2025, he ultimately agreed to the February timeline proposed by Yunus. Now, returned from exile to lead the government, Rahman frames his premiership around justice and institutional repair. "Justice will be our guiding principle," he said. "If the rule of law is not established, all our efforts will be in vain."

He has called on political rivals to cooperate in safeguarding democracy, citizens to help combat corruption and uphold law and order, and expatriate Bangladeshis to remain engaged.

For a man once defined by absence, Rahman's presence now feels consequential. Whether his government can translate calls for unity and the rule of law into reform will determine his legacy.

India-US trade deal will 'destroy & finish' textile industry, Rahul ups ante

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

UPPING the ante on the India-US interim trade deal, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday accused the government of cheating cotton farmers and textile exporters in the country and said the agreement is likely to inflict deep damage on both sectors.

In a post on X, he said the government as a visionary government would have negotiated a deal that protected both and ensured prosperity for both the sectors. "18% tariff vs 0% - Let me explain how the PM and his cabinet are spreading confusion on this issue...," he said in his post. Gandhi said Bangladesh is being given 0% tariff benefit on garment exports to the US - the only condition is that they import American cotton.

"After the announcement of an 18% tariff on Indian garments, when I raised the question in Parliament about the special concession being given to Bangladesh, the reply from a minister in the Modi government was: "If we also want the same benefit, we will have to import cotton from America".

"Why was this fact hidden from the country till now? And what kind of policy is this? Is this really any kind of choice - or is it a trap designed to push us into a 'well in front, ditch behind' situation," he asked.

In another video message, Gandhi slammed Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal over the agreement, and urged him not to lie about the 'reality' of the deal. Gandhi said, "A minister in the Modi government is unaware of the fact that Bangladesh has decided to import cotton from the US instead of India. He argued that if the US grants Bangladesh zero-tariff access, it would severely hurt India's textile industry.

He also rejected the argument that importing US cotton would benefit India. Indian cotton is largely exported to Bangladesh and sustains India's textile mills, he said.

Motion against Speaker renews talks on vacant Dy Speaker post

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

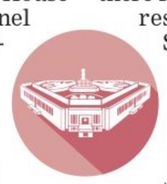
AS the Lok Sabha is scheduled to take up the no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the second leg of the Budget session on March 9, it has sparked renewed debates on the post of the Deputy Speaker, which has been vacant for the past seven years.

Constitutional experts point out that certain operational questions arise in the absence of a Deputy Speaker. As several Opposition parties have submitted the no-confidence motion against the Speaker last week, a date to consider the motion will be fixed any day after the 14-day notice period.

Speaking to this newspaper, former Lok Sabha secretary general P D T Achary pointed out that the procedure is governed by Rules 200 A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha. While the rules contain provisions laying down conditions of admissibility of the resolution, Achary said that the rules are silent on who will decide the admissibility of the resolution in the absence of the Speaker.

"The rule says that resolutions must be precise and free of defamatory language or arguments," said Achary.

"The Speaker cannot decide the admissibility of the resolution as there's charge against him. Since the Deputy Speaker is also not there, the rule is silent on the situation," he added. An option before the House is to choose from the panel of chairpersons presiding in the absence of the Speaker, he said. Currently, a panel of chairpersons presides over the House in the absence of the Speaker. The panel of 10 MPs was appointed by the Speaker last July. "However, who will decide who should be given the duty of admitting the resolution?, he asked.



Deputy Speaker post is a mandatory provision by the Constitution as per Article 93, he said. Speaking to this paper, Dr M R Madhavan of PRS Legislative Research, said, "As there is no Deputy speaker on a resolution to remove the Speaker, the Speaker cannot chair the House.

The Constitution says that it will be as per the rules. Through the rules, they have created a panel of chairmen not specifically for this purpose. But the panel of chairs will preside when the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is not present. So my guess is one of them can preside".

The Speaker cannot decide the admissibility of the resolution as there's charge against him. Since the Deputy Speaker is also not there, the rule is silent on the situation —P D T Achary, LS secretary general

'52 Reforms in 52 Weeks' placed on fast track

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AS part of the '52 Reforms in 52 Weeks' initiative, the Railways on Saturday launched two measures—one aimed at improving on-board services in trains with top priority given to cleanliness, and the other focused on rail-based logistics through Gati-Shakti cargo terminals and related cargo facilities.

"Now cleanliness in general coaches will be at the level maintained in reserved coaches. Initially, we have started the first reform for better onboard services in 80 trains identified from all zones. More than 80 important trains will be brought under this reform in coming days," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.

Multi-tasking and cross-skilled staff will serve as passenger interface personnel for cleanliness. Leading service providers with a proven track record will be engaged to ensure improved cleanliness and onboard services in 80 trains from their originating stations to their final destinations, he said. Cleanliness and other on-board services will also be supported by technology-enabled real-time monitoring.

"A central control room is being established to monitor the reform for better on-board services, including cleanliness, where photographs received from trains will be analysed using AI tools," he added.

At a meeting chaired by Vaishnaw in January this year, 52 reforms in 52 weeks were approved for systematic improvements in service delivery, efficiency and governance. He said, "Two reforms out of 7 will start after the AI Impact Summit, and the rest in the first and second weeks of March".

Another reform will accelerate the use of artificial intelligence and advanced technologies for safety, maintenance and operations. Other measures include revamp of talent management and training, exploring innovative approaches to employee skill development, and overhaul of catering services to enhance food quality and onboard service standards.

He said the second reform, concerning rail-based logistics through Gati-Shakti cargo terminals and cargo-related facilities, has also started. So far, the Railways has developed 124 multi-modal cargo terminals, surpassing the target of 100.

"With the construction of 124 multi-model cargo terminals, which have brought over 200 million tonnes of cargo in the last 3 years, generating extra revenue of ₹20,000 crore, the Railways have moved further in cargo terminal services. We have set a target of developing more than 500 multi-modal cargo terminals in the next 5 years that will also bring more than 300 million tonnes of cargo by generating extra revenue of ₹30,000 crore in the coming days," he said.

"Over the next 22 years, the Railways has numerous reforms and initiatives to undertake as part of building a new Railways system in a Viksit Bharat under the Prime Minister's leadership," he said.

Over the next 22 years, the Railways has numerous reforms and initiatives to undertake as part of building a new Railways system in a Viksit Bharat under the Prime Minister's leadership.

—Ashwini Vaishnaw, Railway Minister

Over 1.67L Indians deported from abroad in 5 years, govt tells House

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

MORE than 1.67 lakh Indian nationals were deported back to the country from abroad in the last five years. According to the latest figures shared by the Ministry of External Affairs in the Lok Sabha, the highest number were deported from Saudi Arabia at 1.21 lakh, followed by 22,209 from the UAE, 6,743 from Malaysia, 5,319 from Qatar, 4,375 from the US and 2,180 from Myanmar.

Amid growing concern over youth falling victim to fraudulent travel agents, the ministry acknowledged that it is aware of dubious entities luring Indian nationals with fake offers of overseas jobs.

It said that 3,925 complaints and 955 FIRs were filed across the country regarding this in the last three years. Andhra Pradesh topped the list of states with 1,495 complaints and 35 FIRs, followed by 625 complaints and 442 FIRs in Kerala and 357 complaints and 123 FIRs in Tamil Nadu between 2023 and 2025.

Responding to a question asked by Shiromani Akali Dal MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh added that in 2024 alone, 1,091 Indians were deported from China, 661 from Cyprus, 541 from Canada, 60 from Columbia, 53 from Australia and 33 from Belgium.

Western European countries accounted for far fewer deportations, with France accounting for just one and Ireland for seven in 2024.

Other countries from which a significant number of Indians were deported include the Maldives, Georgia, Russia, Panama and Poland.

The minister noted that recruitment scams for sending Indians overseas operated through social media, and such fraudulent activities came to light when complaints were filed by the victims or their friends and family.

The reply further stated that most foreign governments did not provide information on illegal stays by foreigners, except when they were under orders of deportation and travel documents and nationality verification were required.

RETURNING HOME

Between 2021–25

- **1.21** lakh were deported from Saudi Arabia
- **22,209**: UAE
- **6,743**: Malaysia
- **5,319**: Qatar
- **4,375**: US
- **2,180:** Myanmar

Between 2023 & 2025
FRAUDULENT AGENTS FACED
3,925 ● COMPLAINTS
955 ● FIRs

Andhra Pradesh	● 1,495 ● 35
Kerala	● 625 ● 442
Tamil Nadu	● 357 ● 123

IMD FORECAST

Parts of Rajasthan may receive light rainfall early next week under the influence of a fresh western disturbance, the India Meteorological Department said on Saturday.

4 DIE AS CAR PLUNGES INTO GORGE IN HIMACHAL

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	17	Mumbai	31	23
Bhopal	29	16	Panaji	32	22
Jaipur	28	13	Patna	27	13
Amritsar	25	11	Lucknow	27	13
Chennai	29	21	Port Blair	29	26
Kolkata	29	16	Imphal	26	09
Srinagar	10	-1	Chandigarh	25	11

Witnesses an aerial display of fighter jets, transport aircraft & copters

PM's historic landing at Assam highway airstrip

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi made a historic touchdown at a highway airstrip in Assam on Saturday. An Indian Air Force (IAF) C-130J aircraft, which took off from the Chabua airfield carrying the Prime Minister, landed at the Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) on the Moran Bypass in Dibrugarh district.

The PM also witnessed an aerial display of fighter jets, transport aircraft and helicopters at Moran."It is a matter of immense pride that the Northeast gets an Emergency Landing Facility. From a strategic point of view and during times of natural disasters, this facility is of great importance," he posted on X.

The 4.2km ELF is specially designed and constructed in coordination with the IAF to support landing and take-off of military and civil aircraft during emergencies. It is strategically important considering that the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh is just a few hundred kilometres away.

Addressing BJP workers in Guwahati, Modi said history was made following his landing at the ELF. "Once, the condition of roads in the Northeast was dilapidated. Today, we got such a highway where not only vehicles can ply but aircraft can land as well. Are you not proud that an aircraft landed at your highway?" he asked the crowd.

He said Assam witnessed massive development initiatives over the past ten years as people voted BJP. He said the world had seen how India punished the terrorists after Pulwama. "You have seen this strength of Bharat during Operation Sindoor. Did you find such courage in the Congress? They could, at best, issue statements," the PM said.

He alleged that the Congress never prioritised national security. He said the entire Northeast lived under fear and insecurity as the Congress always kept the country under threat. Whenever weapons were purchased for the armed forces during Congress rule, there used to be corruptions to the tune of thousands of crores of rupees, Modi said.

PM Modi at the Emergency Landing Facility in Assam's Dibrugarh district | EXPRESS

Congresss in process of partitioning the country: PM

The PM said that India was strengthening its armed forces and building infrastructure along its borders."Muslim League partitioned the country. Today, Congress, by becoming Maoist Muslim League Congress, is in the process of partitioning the country. Beware of the Congress," Modi said.

1 killed, 3 hurt in Mumbai metro pillar collapse

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A man died, and three others were injured after a section of an under-construction metro pillar collapsed on passing vehicles in Mumbai's Mulund area on Saturday.

In a statement, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), which is executing the Metro project, said that a portion of the parapet segment crashed and fell on a passing autorickshaw and a Skoda car. Ramdhan Yadav, who was travelling in the rickshaw, died. Ashwin Ashok Mudgal, Additional Metropolitan Commissioner-II of MMRDA, said, "A ₹5 crore penalty has been imposed on the contractor responsible for the project, and a panel has been formed for inquiry."

While CM Devendra Fadnavis awarded ₹5 lakh to the deceased and promised a probe, opposition leaders slammed the MahaYuti government and asked whether the lives of Mumbai residents hold no value. "A safety audit will be conducted immediately at all such construction sites as a preventive measure," CM said.

Local BJP MLA Mihir Kotecha blamed the MMRDA and contractor. Workers mistakenly cut the segment instead of welding it, and no supervisor was present, he claimed.

Murder-for-hire: US court to pronounce sentence for Nikhil Gupta on May 29

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

NIKHIL Gupta, the Indian national who pleaded guilty in a US court to his role in an alleged murder-for-hire plot of Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, will be sentenced on May 29.

The US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York described Gupta, also known as Nick, as an "international narcotics and weapons trafficker" and has accused him of involvement in a plot to kill Pannun, who is a designated terrorist in India.

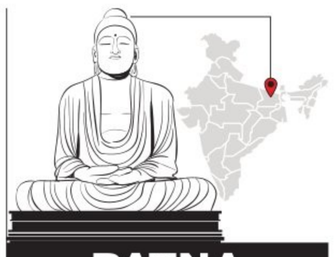
The 54-year-old Gupta pleaded guilty to murder-for-hire, conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire and conspiracy to commit money laundering in connection with efforts to kill Pannun in New York. He faces up to 40 years in prison. According to the US Department of Justice (DOJ), Gupta was recruited by Vikash Yadav, who is identified as working for the Research and Analysis Wing. The DOJ said that Gupta allegedly sought to "hire a hitman to orchestrate the assassination" of Pannun on US soil at the instance of Yadav.

"The intended target is a US citizen of Indian origin who is a vocal critic of the Indian government and leads a US-based organisation advocating the secession of Punjab to establish a Sikh sovereign state called Khalistan. India has banned the 'victim' (Pannun) and his separatist organisation," the document reads.

The individuals Gupta contacted were, however, working with the US law enforcement agencies, which led to the foiling of the plot by the US agencies Drug Enforcement Administration(DEA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Gupta, an Indian citizen and resident, described himself as an "international narcotics and weapons trafficker" in electronic communications with Yadav and others, according to court records. Yadav, according to the DOJ, recruited Gupta in or about May 2023 to assassinate Pannun.

"At Yadav's direction, Gupta contacted an individual he believed to be a criminal associate for assistance in hiring a hitman to kill the victim. The individual was, in fact, a confidential source (CS) working with the DEA," it added.



PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR

Our correspondent in Bihar

ramashankar@newindianexpress.com

IAS officer flying in chartered plane

RJD MLA Rahul Sharma made a sensational claim about a senior IAS officer of Bihar. He said that the officer has flown in a chartered plane. Raising the issue in the House, Sharma contended that a person below the rank of a cabinet officer is still getting such facilities and the government should conduct inquire into the matter. Sharma said, "We do not think that government can provide such facilities, so someone else must have given it. Their salary is not sufficient to make such arrangements, so why did the person who provided it do so? What was given to them in return? He also revealed the name of the officer posted in civil aviation department.

Nitish Kumar's 'Ye Ladki' jibe triggers oppn ire

Jokes and sarcastic comments are common during the festival of Holi. Although the festival is a few weeks away, the enthusiasm seems to have spilt over to the Bihar Legislative Council, as Chief Minister Nitish Kumar referred to former CM and Leader of Opposition Rabri Devi as "Ye Ladki (girl)". Defending the CM, Shyam Rajak referred to Rabri Devi and Nitish Kumar as Bhabhi-devar, saying that no third party should interfere in the bickering between them during the month of Magh, as it is their personal matter. However, Nitish's remarks invited sharp reactions from RJD, which demanded an apology from Kumar.

PK strives to rebuild party as active opponent

After a crushing defeat in recently held Bihar polls, Prashant Kishor is rebuilding Jan Suraaj Party on the streets—seeking to transform it from a failed challenger. He has launched 'Bihar Navnirman Abhiyan' to rebuild JSP's grassroots organisation and restore workers' morale. By raising governance issues and pressurising the government on pensions, welfare and job creation, he said, he is positioning the party as Bihar's most active Opposition. He is betting on sustained village-level mobilisation to convert JSP from an electoral experiment into a durable political alternative.

Huge quantity of ganja found as Gujarat police unearth smuggling plot

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

WHAT appeared to be a routine onion-laden pick-up truck at Ahmedabad's Narol Circle turned out to be a multi-crore narcotics haul of 406.3kg of ganja, worth nearly ₹2.3 crore.

Based on an input received on February 13, the Gujarat Crime Branch zeroed in on a suspicious vehicle allegedly ferrying contraband from Maharashtra under the guise of an onion shipment.

When the vehicle was searched, it was found that beneath the onion sacks lay ganja and two drivers, Deepak Jat and Satej Pawer, both residents of Dhule in Maharashtra were arrested.

The duo disclosed that the ganja had been loaded at Karmala village near the MP–Maharashtra border. They revealed that the consignment was allegedly handed over by Sagar Pawar and Shantaram Pawar, who had orchestrated the transport and fixed the Ahmedabad delivery for a payment of ₹50,000.

Investigators said that Shantaram had personally arranged the logistics and even piloted the route for the drivers, ensuring the consignment's smooth movement until the Crime Branch swooped in. But as the arrests were made and the net began tightening, Shantaram allegedly switched off his phone and vanished, turning the case into a larger chase for the absconding mastermind who, police suspect, had delivered ganja consignments in Ahmedabad earlier as well.

Along with the ganja, the Crime Branch seized the pick-up vehicle and other valuables.An official release stated that with the arrested now in custody and remand proceedings underway, investigators are racing against time to decode the delivery chain and trace the local receivers in Ahmedabad.

Simultaneously, teams have launched a manhunt to track down Shantaram and Sagar Pawar, as the Crime Branch intensifies its crackdown on narcotics trafficking under the NDPS Act, sending a loud message that even the most cleverly disguised drug consignments will not slip through Ahmedabad's security net.

Coal mafia attack forest dept team in Shahdol dist

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

A forest ranger and accompanying staff were attacked by a coal mafia in Khituali forest area under Sohagpur Police Station of Shahdol district, after they tried to stop armed men from transporting illegally mined coal on February 11.

Despite timely information to police, the FIR against them was registered at Shahdol's Sohagpur police station nearly 24 hours later. Accused Betan Singh, Chintu Singh and Raju Singh were arrested by the local police on Saturday, two days after the FIR was registered.

Importantly, this was not the first such incident. Two days before this, the same coal mafia had misbehaved with the same forest ranger and managed to flee with the tractor loaded with illegally mined coal.

"The incidents occurred on the evening of February 11 while we were on patrolling duties. The coal mafia first attacked villagers and managed to decamp with the tractor. Our team, led by ranger Ram Naresh Vishwakarma, rushed to the spot, where he was assaulted. Even when I rushed to the spot with my team, the three men misbehaved with our staff," DFO-South Shahdol, Shraddha Pandre, said.

Forest dept's 'social boycott' to stop crimes triggers row

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE Chhattisgarh forest department has directed officials to use 'social boycott' as a weapon to rein in wildlife crimes across the state, a decision that has triggered a controversy.

Internal documents from a review meeting, which have been accessed by this newspaper, revealed a directive from Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Arun Kumar Pandey that calls for enforcing social isolation, besides legal action, against people involved in wildlife crimes. The move has sparked a debate over human rights, though the measure is aimed at dismantling poaching networks operating within the state.

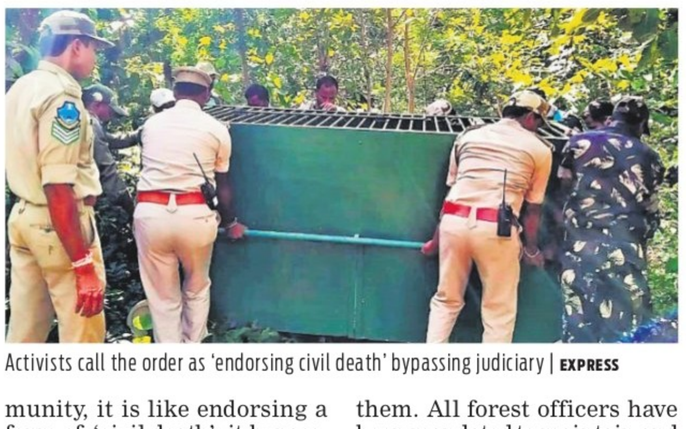
The divisional forest officers (DFOs) have been asked to reach out to village heads, religious leaders, local organisations and influencers for socially ostracising those caught setting traps for catch animals or involved in wildlife crimes. The department believes the initiative will curb illegal hunting and safeguard forest zones.

However, the directive has hit a wall of legal scrutiny. "Social ostracisation is an inhuman practice. By disconnecting an individual from their community, it is like endorsing a form of 'civil death'; it bypasses the judiciary. Punishment must be an act of law, not a state-sponsored mob action that strips a person of their basic social existence," said Dr Dinesh Mishra, an ophthalmologist who campaigns against the social boycott menace.

A formal complaint to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has been lodged by wildlife enthusiast Nitin Singhvi, alleging that the forest department is attempting to use extrajudicial punishment to mask its own investigative failures.

Sources said, the department will also publicly put out photographs of the offenders with evidence of poaching crimes in village squares to "shame" them. All forest officers have been mandated to maintain and update a detailed database of known offenders and suspects within their jurisdictions to ensure monitoring and action.

State forest minister Kedar Kashyap parried a query on whether he supports or disapproves of the directive on 'social boycott' as a punishment. "Decisions are usually being taken keeping in mind the protection of forests and wildlife and ensuring the well-being of people," Kashyap told this newspaper. Activists argue that social boycotting, which involves isolating individuals from community and economic and cultural life, is a violation of the rule of law and constitutional protections.



Activists call the order as 'endorsing civil death' bypassing judiciary | EXPRESS

CBI probe into death of NEET aspirant in Patna, ex-IPS officer's house searched

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE CBI on Saturday swung into action soon after taking over the investigation into the suspicious death of a NEET aspirant in Patna last month. A team of officers visited the hostel in which the victim was staying to prepare for a medical entrance examination.

The CBI officers, along with members of the SIT earlier constituted to probe the case, began carrying out an inspection of the hostel premises, capturing photographs and collecting visual evidence both inside and outside the building. A heavy police deployment, including women police personnel, was present during the investigation to maintain security.

The arrival of CBI vehicles and officials drew a large crowd of local residents, who gathered near the hostel to learn about the latest developments in the case. The deceased student, a resident of Jehanabad district, had been staying at the hostel under Chitragupta Nagar police stations in Patna while preparing for the NEET.

She died under suspicious circumstances, triggering outrage and demands for a thorough investigation. Initially, police claimed that the 17-year-old girl died by suicide, as sleeping pills were found in her room. However, the postmortem report did not rule out sexual assault.

The case was handed over to CBI after outcry over the incident. The agency registered a fresh case and collected files relating to the investigation by district police. The investigating officers also contacted the members of the SIT to get feedback on its investigation.

Meanwhile, the case took a U-turn when a police team reached the residence of a former IPS officer, Amitabh Kumar Das, with a search warrant. Das, a 1994-batch IPS officer, had earlier claimed that he had evidence to substantiate the involvement of a top politician's son in the incident.

A high-voltage drama followed during Das' house search in Patliputra Colony. Das later claimed that he was illegally being arrested by the police for exposing political links.

He was admitted to a private hospital as he complained of uneasiness. Earlier, an FIR was lodged at Chitragupta Nagar police station accusing a former IPS officer and some YouTubers of making attempts to divert the investigation into the case.

No. of Kashmiri students down 67% in U'khand

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE educational landscape of Uttarakhand is witnessing a sharp demographic shift as enrolment numbers for Kashmiri students have nosedived by nearly 67% over the past few years. Recent incidents of targeted harassment and physical assaults against students and shawl vendors from the valley have created a palpable "climate of fear", driving aspiring scholars away from the state's premier institutions.

According to recent estimates, the number of Kashmiri students arriving in the state capital, Dehradun, has crashed from an annual average of 6,000 to just 2,000. This exodus marks a significant blow to the state's reputation as a preferred educational hub.

Speaking to this newspaper, Nasir Khuehami, the National Convener of the Jammu & Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), expressed deep concern over this downward trend. "The association urges both the Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir governments to take immediate steps to bridge the growing trust deficit," Khuehami said.

Recent incidents of targeted attacks on students and shawl traders from J&K have created a climate of fear, driving them away from Uttarakhand campusus FILE PHOTO

The friction traces back to the immediate aftermath of the Pulwama attack, where Uttarakhand was among the first states to report the harassment of Kashmiri students.

Many were forced to vacate hostels and faced physical intimidation, fundamentally altering the perception of safety in the region. Khuehami noted that prior to these tensions, Uttarakhand, alongside Punjab, was a top-tier destination for students from the Union Territory.

"However, in the years following the 2019 incidents, admissions have steadily declined. Many families now prefer other states or even international destinations due to lingering concerns about security," he added.

Addressing the root of the hostility, the JKSA emphasised that individual actions should not lead to collective punishment. "Every act of violence is condemnable. If any individual posted objectionable content, such actions are wrong. However, personal misconduct should not be linked to an entire community. Holding all Kashmiris responsible for the actions of a few is unjust," Khuehami asserted.

JKSA has also called on the authorities to introduce confidence-building measures to address the concerns of minority students. The association has suggested establishing dedicated grievance redressal mechanisms, launching awareness campaigns, and offering targeted scholarships to encourage students to return to their educational institutions.

"True integration is built on mutual respect and dignity, not intimidation," Khuehami said, calling for collaborative action to ensure Uttarakhand remains a welcoming destination for all. The association also criticised the "lack of proactive measures" from the state governments. The decline has not only affected the students' academic journeys but has also impacted the local economy and the cultural diversity of Uttarakhand's campuses, they said.

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ରାଜ୍ୟ ମୁକ୍ତ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ, ସମ୍ବଲପୁର
ODISHA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY,SAMBALPUR

Established by an Act of Government of Odisha.

No. 370/OSOU/2026 Dt. 13.02.2026

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Odisha State Open University invites applications from Indian citizens having the eligibility as per the UGC Notification, New Delhi, dated 4th July 2018, for appointment to the posts of Assistant Professor/ Associate Professor / Professor against **Regular Sanctioned Posts** in the departments of Political Science, Odia, History, Economics, English, Commerce, Cyber Security, BBA, and Psychology.

The online application form and department-wise reservation details will be made available on the University website from **25th February 2026** onwards. Relaxation in the minimum 55% marks at the Master's Degree Level and Reservation will be applicable as per Government of India /State Govt. norms.

For details of the terms and conditions, guidelines for applying etc., please visit the University website **(www.osou.ac.in)**. Candidates are advised to refer to the guidelines thoroughly and apply accordingly before the closing date.

Application open date: 25-02-2026 (25 February, 2026)
Application closing date: 10-04-2026 (10 April, 2026 11.59 PM)

Sd-
Registrar

SELECTION RALLY FOR BOYS SPORTS COMPANY, THE MADRAS REGIMENTAL CENTRE, WELLINGTON 2026

1. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC), The Madras Regimental Centre (MRC), Wellington (Nilgiris), Tamil Nadu is a Joint Venture between Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Indian Army with a vision to select, Groom and Prepare Potential Talent in selected Sports disciplines, to improve our medals prospects in future International / National sports event. BSC at MRC is responsible to nurture talent for **Athletics** (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana State ony).
2. The Selection rally for enrolment into BSC, MRC will be conducted at Thangaraj Stadium, Wellington from **06 April to 09 April 2026** for the age group of 13 to 16 years as on 06 Apr 2026 (Born between 06 April 2013 and 06 April 2010). Outstanding sportsmen having attained the age of 15 or 16 years, will be considered as exceptional cases based on their level of competence and participation in the above mentioned sports disciplines. The entry for selection will be opened on **06 Apr 2026 at 7 AM to 5 PM** only. School Children having Participated at School Games Federation of India (SGFI) level or Equivalent Sports Event must bring their Certificates of Participation / Certificates of medals received.
3. The Physical Fitness Standards required for Young Talent will be 155 cm height 13 years and 160 cm height 14 years. Taller candidates will be given preference for selection. Educational qualification is min 7th std pass. Selected candidates will be provided with free accommodation and education till 12th Class and sports training under the NIS diploma coaches.
4. On attaining the 17½ years of age, the young talents will have an option of enrollment in The Madras Regimental Centre sports quota based on their performance and subject to meeting the laid down physical / educational standards.

QuoteExpress THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED › MARK TWAIN

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client intends to purchase property BBMP khata No.1145/671 MSR Complex ,old BDA Site No.671 situated at 9th Main Road H.S.R. Layout Sector 7, in all measuring 40ft × 60ft = Total 2400sqft. Bounded by : East : Road, West: Site No.690, North: Site No.672, South: Site No.670.

From its owner Sri.M.Satish Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objecions/claims with documentary evidence within 3 days from the date of this publication to

L.Puttaraju : Advocate
No.103, Elegent Embassy Apartment, 4th Cross, 20th Main , 2nd Phase JPNagar, Bengaluru-560078.
Email: raviabhi886@gmail.com
Mobile:7829934588

SALE

DC conversion and dtcp approved plots near international Airport devanahalli BANGALORE 30x60 two plots north. Corner A KATHA in fully developed gated community layout. Rs.1900/- sft.

96638 84211

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation

Civil Engineering Division, Bengaluru - 560027.

No.: KST/EE/JE/895/2025-26 Date: 14-02-2026

KPPP PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders / Bids are invited from eligible registered Contractors individuals /agency/ firms by the Executive Engineer, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, Civil Engineering Division, Bengaluru for the detailed below:

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	E.M.D (in Rs.)	Time Limit in months (including Monsoon)
1	13	Alteration and Renovation works of KSRTC Hospital building at Jayanagara 4th T block, Bangalore for office of PTFRC (Public Transport Fare Regulatory Committee).	80.60	1,61,200/-	45 Days

1) Last date for acceptance of Tender : 04.03.2026.
2) More details can be obtained by logging on to the website, after: 20.02.2026. http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
3) For more information Contact EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, KSRTC old CTI Building, Shanthinagara, Bangalore-27.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
KSRTC, CE Division, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5659/AKAR/2025-26

IDBI BANK

CIN:L65190MH2004GOI148838

Regional Office: Hubballi
3rd Floor, Gardenia Complex, Beside Fashion Factory, Opp. Akshay Park, Gokul Road, Hubli - 580030, Karnataka. www.idbibank.in.
Email: basanth@idbi.co.in, abdul.khadar@idbi.co.in, recovery.bangalore@idbi.co.in, ibkl0001062@idbi.co.in

E-AUCTION NOTICE

NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Appendix - IV-A [See provison to Rule 8 (6) and Rule 9 (1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ('Act') read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ('Rules')

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to IDBI Bank Ltd, the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDBI Bank Ltd., the Secured Creditor, will be sold through publice - auction on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** and **"Without Recourse"** on **March 20, 2026** (as per detailed schedule given below), for recovery of amounts due to the IDBI Bank Ltd., Secured Creditor from Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned herein below along with Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of each of the property.

Date of Sale of Bid document	February 16, 2026 onwards
Date of Inspection	During working days from February 16, 2026 to March 17, 2026 with prior request.
Last Date of submission of Bid	March 17, 2026
Opening of Bids	March 18, 2026
Date and time of e-auction	**March 20, 2026 from 11.00 am onwards**

1. Name & Address of the Borrowers: M/s. Sri Doddabasaveshwara Rice Industries ("the Borrower") represented by Shri Dharmasagar Jadesha, ("the Mortgagor", "the Guarantor" & "the Partner") & Smt. D Latha, ("the Mortgagor", "the Guarantor" & "the Partner") having Cust Id : 101356223.

Outstanding Amount: Rs. 4,17,73,095.29 (Rupees Four Crore Seventeen Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Ninety Five and Paise Twenty Nine Only) towards the outstanding dues in respect of the Loans as on **20.01.2026** + together with expenses, charges and further interest thereon with effect from **21.01.2026.**

Description of the Immovable & Movable Properties:

1. A) Hypothecation of Assets: (As per Loan Cum Hypothecation Agreement dated 17.07.2023 and Supplemental Hypothecation Cum Loan Agreement dated 29.06.2024.)

The whole of the movable properties of the Borrower including its movable plant and machinery, machinery spares, tools and accessories and raw materials, goods, book-debts, vehicles, and all other movables including receivables, documents of title to goods, outstanding monies, bills, invoice, documents, contracts, insurance policies, guarantee, investments and rights, both present and future whether installed or not and whether now lying loose or in cases or which are now lying or stored in or about or shall hereafter from time to time during the continuance of the security of these presents be brought into or upon or be stored or be in or about all the Borrower's offices, premises, factories and godowns or wherever else the same may be or be held by any party to the order or disposition of the Borrower or in the course of transit or on high seas or on order, or delivery, howsoever in the possession of the Borrower and either by way of substitution of addition.

B) The Mortgaged Assets:

i) (Sale Deed dated 20.03.2023, favouring M/s. Sri Doddabasaveshwara Rice Industries, represented by its Partners, Shri. Dharmasagar Jadesha and Smt. D Latha, registered as Doc. No. 9656/2022-23, with e Stamp Certificate No.: IN - KA17383346238574V, with SRO Siruguppa and Registered Memorandum of Deposit of Title Deeds vide Doc. No. 2704/2023-24, dated 17.07.2023, with SRO Siruguappa).

All that piece and parcel of Non Agricultural lands converted to Industrial purpose bearing Sy.No:59/*/A/1a(part) and Sy.No: 60/*/B/1 (part) measuring 0.75 Acres & 1.00 Acres, respectively, bearing CMC e-property No: 28-524-478, Old e Property No.: 455, admeasuring total of 7081.995690 Sq.Mts, (1 Acres & 75 Cents), Araliganur Main Road, Ward No: 21,situated at Siruguppa, Bellari District, and constructed as i) AC sheet shed measuring (120 x 180 ft) 2006.7048 Sq.mts., ii) AC sheet shed measuring (65 x 13ft) 78.503035 Sq mts, iii) RCC room measuring (10 x 15ft) 13.935450 Sq.mts. in the said property and **bounded as follow: East:** 30 ft road existed in Sy.No.59 A/1a land; **West:** Sy.No: 60 A/2's land- B J Vishalakshi; **North:** 40 ft road existed in Sy.No.59 A/1a; Sy No: 60/B1, Sri Gururaja Rice Mill, **South:** Sy No.59 A/1a, Sy No: 60/B1 land-M/s. Neelanjana Warehouse.

Reservce Price: Rs. 5,43,49,000.00 EMD: Rs. 54,35,000.00

2. (Registered Sale Deed dated 10.06.2024, favouring Shri Dharmasagar, S/o. Dharmasagar Virupanna bearing vide doc No: 1552/2024-25, with SRO Siruguppa and Memorandum of Entry by way of Constructive Delivery, Shri. Dharmasagar Jadesha, dated 29.06.2024).

The residential property bearing Plot No. 4, Property No. 46-521-30, old No. 1574/4, admeasuring East-West: 12.192024 Mtrs (40 Ft.), North-South: 16.459233 Mtrs (53 Ft. towards East, 55 Ft. towards West), total 200.670480 Sq Mtrs. (2160.00Sq.Ft.) having built up area in 82.42 Sq Mtrs in Ground Floor and 82.42 Sq Mtrs. in First Floor, Ward No. 15, Y-Lingamma Layout, within the limits of Siruguppa City Municipal Council Siruguppa Taluka, Bellari District and **bounded as follows: East:** Plot No. 5; **West:** Plot No. 3; **North:** KR Nagaraj Shetty Layout; **South:** 40 Feet Road.

Reservce Price: Rs. 95,01,300.00 EMD: Rs. 9,51,000.00

Gist of Terms and Conditions: 1) Interested bidders shall submit proof of payment along with KYC documents (photo identity and address proofs) like PAN Card (compulsory), Aadhaar Card, Passport, Voter ID card, Driving License etc. in person to the authorized officer at the address given above. Online submission of auction participation application shall not be entertained and rejected. The bidder shall have to submit the bid along with necessary documents and filling formats in person by visiting the Authorised Officer ('AO')/Branch at the address given above. **EMD to be remitted to Account No. 106234915010026, IFSC Code: IBKL0001062, Branch Name: IDBI Bank Limited, Devalapura Branch, Siriguppa, Karnataka,** by way of RTGS only in favour of IDBI Bank Ltd. The amount of EMD paid by the interested bidders shall carry no interest. The EMD shall be forfeited if the bidder does not participate in the e-auction by placing the bid. AO may retain EMD of top three bidders up to 3 months from the date of opening of the bids.

2) The AO shall not take responsibility for any dues (Statutory or otherwise) outstanding as on date and yet to fall due, including dues that may affect transfer of property in the name of the successful bidder and such dues, if any, shall have to be borne by the successful purchaser. IDBI shall not take any responsibility to provide information on the same. The successful bidder would be required to bear all the necessary expenses like stamp duty, registration, expenses, tax liabilities, if any, etc. for transfer of immovable property in his / her favour.

3) IDBI Bank Ltd and AO do not take responsibility for any errors/ omissions/ discrepancy / shortfall etc. in the immovable property or for procuring any permissions etc. or for the dues of any authority established by law.

4) AO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason(s). In case all the bids are rejected, the AO reserves the right to sell the assets by any of the modes as prescribed in the Act.

5) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in IDBI Bank's website i.e. www.idbibank.in. For any clarification, the interested parties may contact **Shri Abdul Khadar S, AGM (Mobile: 9980073255, Email: Abdul.khadar@idbi.co.in), Shri G Basanth Chakravarthy, DGM (Tel: 080 61451226, E-mail: basanth@idbi.co.in) and Shri Shahsi Kumar, AGM & BH (Tel: 08394-225550, Mobile: 9480144521, E-mail: shashi.kumar@idbi.co.in).**

6) For E-auction support, please contact **Shri P Dharani Krishna, Mobile: 9948182222, Shri Gangadhar, Mobile: 9900711744, E-mail: karnataka@ c1india.com,** Website: https://www.bankeauctions.com, C1 India Pvt. Ltd., Udyog Vihar, Phase - 2, Gulf Petrochem Building No. 301, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 015.

Statutory Notices as per Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("the Rules")

1. The Borrower viz. **M/s. Sri Doddabasaveshwara Rice Industries ("the Borrower") represented by its Shri Dharmasagar Jadesha, ("the Mortgagor", "the Guarantor" & "the Partner") & Smt. D Latha, ("the Mortgagor", "the Guarantor" & "the Partner")** is hereby notified under Rule 8(6) & Rule 6(2) of the Rules that the relevant immovable & movable properties as mentioned above shall be sold after 30 days ['Notice Period as per Rules] from the date of this notice by holding public e-auction.

2. However, the respective Borrower may pay the respective outstanding dues as mentioned above together with expenses, charges and further interest thereon with effect from respective dates as mentioned above and take back the possession of the respective immovable & movable properties in question. In case Borrower fail to pay the outstanding dues as demanded herein within applicable respective Notice Period as per Rules from the date of this Notice, the Authorised Officer would be at liberty to proceed with the above mentioned public e-auction of the immovable & movable properties of the respective Borrowers.

Date : 13.02.2026
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/-, Authorised Officer
IDBI Bank Ltd.,

STATE BANK OF INDIA

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH(SARB), BANGALORE

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name: Smt.Jayalakshmi
Chief Manager
Mobile No: +91-9945143159
E-mail – sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

3rd Floor, Building No. 11/90,
Near Old Shivaji Theatre, JC Road,
Bangalore 560002
Landline No: 080 -25943663/3678
Mob: +91 -8291975239/ 9945143159/9916804586

APPENDIX-IV-A

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Sale Notice of Sale of Immovable Property

(Excluding movable assets, if any, lying in the premises)

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Asset (Excluding movable assets, if any, lying in the premises) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India being the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis on**04.03.2026**for recovery of **Rs.4,71,74,306 (Rs. Four crore seventy one lakhs seventy four thousand three hundred and six only) as on 13.02.2026, and future interest with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc.** due to the State Bank of India, SARB, JC Road,Bangalore, from **Mr. Hamid Hussain Banday,** House No. 134 B, Professor Colony, Yamunanagar-135 001**Also at:** Aashirwad Apartment, D-83, Top Floor, Gate 4, Freedom Fighter Enclave, New Delhi-110 013 **And also at:**Gabba Hospital, Department of Radiology, Yamunanagar Bypass Road, Hariyana-135 001.

The Reserve price, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Bid increment amount and time of E-auction and the Last date for submission of EMD along with KYC documents for immovable property to be sold will be as under:

Reserve Price	EMD to be deposited	Bid increment	Date and Time of E-auction	Last date for receipt of EMD along with KYC Documents
Rs.2,70,00,000/-	Rs.27,00,000/-	Rs.1,00,000/-	04.03.2026 11.00 to16.00	03.03.2026 upto 16.00

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Bank Property ID: SBINSARB20252608

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 128, BBMP Khata No.1/1, situated at Bairathi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Tq, Bangalore Dist, measuring 01 acre 32.17 guntas with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and converted for non-agriculture/residential use, vide Official Memorandum No. ALN (E)(B) SR 5/09-10 dated 29.05.2009, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Dist. Bangalore and bounded on the:-East by :Chikka Gubbi Village Boundary, West by: Bhagaluru Road, North by: Property bearing Sy. No. 127, South by: Property bearing Sy. No. 129.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : 3.09 % undivided share, right, title and interest in all that part and parcel of the property described in the Schedule 'A' mentioned herein above representing to 2,432 sq ft.

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : Row House bearing No. 14 being constructed on the Schedule 'A' property having a saleable area of 2,803 sqft, in "LGCL BEAUTIFUL WORLD" with marble Flooring, Hardwood Doors and Windows together with proportionate share in common areas, passages, lobbies, staircases, facilities and other areas of common use and bounded on the:East: Drive Way and Row House No. 17, West: Common Area and Row House No.12, North :Row House No.15, South: Drive Way and Row House No. 20 & 21.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER "SARFAESI" ACT, 2002

The Borrower /Mortgagor is hereby noticed to pay the sum mention above within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the Bank shall sell the properties as per the provisions laid down in the SARFAESI Act, 2002.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided by the secured creditor represented by the Authorised Officer, State bank of India, SARB, Bengaluru i.e.**1**.http://www.baanknet.con 2. www.sbi.co.in

For further details regarding inspection of the propertied the intending bidders may contact the Authorised Officer as mentioned above or Bank's Approved Resolution Agent M/s Sri Vari Business Consultant India Pvt Ltd. Bangalore Representative: Mr. Mohan Kumar C Mob:9916804586

To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties.

Date: 13.02.2026
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-Authorised Officer
State Bank of India,
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Bengaluru

STATE BANK OF INDIA

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB05173), J C Road, Bengaluru

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name: Smt.Jayalakhshmi
E-mail Id: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in
Mob: +919945143159
Landline No: 080-2594-3663/3664

Address of the Branch:
Building No.11/90, III Floor,
Opp.Trustwell Hospital,
Near Old Shivaji Theatre,
J C Road, Bengaluru -560 002
Tel:080-2594-3663/3664
e-mail Id: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

Appendix – IV-A
[See Proviso to rule 8(6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ON 17.03.2026

E-auction SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO Rule 8 (6) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Guarantor that the below described immovable propertymortgaged/chargedto the Secured creditor, State Bank of India,the Physical possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of **Rs.1,73,24,659/-** (Rupees One Crore Seventy Three Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Nine only) as on 14.07.2023 and further interest at contractual rate from 15.07.2023 with incidental expenses, costs due to State Bank of India, Secured creditor **Sri. Kumar S/o Ashok & Vijayamma,** Flat No. F-101, Kamakshi Shelters, # 214/240, Sy.No.86/1, Reliable Lake Dew, Residency Layout, Haralur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore – 560 037.

The reserve price, earnest money deposit, bid increment amount and last date for receipt of EMD will be as under: -

Reserve Price (Below which the property will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid increment amount	Time of e-Auction of Property	Last date for submission of EMD along with KYC documents
Rs.1,63,15,000/-	Rs.16,31,500/-	Rs.1,00,000/-	11.00 to 16.00 on 17.03.2026	On or before 16.03.2026 up to 16.00

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Tender No: SBI/SARB/2025-26/11

Title deed holder:Sri. Kumar S/o Ashok & Vijayamma

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : (Description of entire property)

All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing Site No. 240, New BBMP Khatha No.214/240, formed in Converted Sy. No 86/1(duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes, as per Official Memorandum bearing No.B.DIS.ALN(E)VB.SR.101/2003-04, dated 03-07-2003, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru), situated at HARALUR VILLAGE, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, now comes within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru, in the Layout known as " RELIAABLE LAKE DEW RESIDENCY", which is duly approved by the Bangalore Development Authority, vide approval bearing No.BDA/TPM/PL-11/1684/2003-04, dated 30-09-2003, and measuring, East to West 70-0 Feet and North to South 40-0 Feet, totally measuring 2800 Square Feet, and bounded on the : East By :Site No. 247; West By : Road; North By : Site No. 239; South By : Site No. 241;

SCHEDULE "B" Property : All that piece and parcel of the Residential Apartment bearing Flat No.FF-101(3 BHK), in First Floor, New BBMP Khatha No.519/214/240/FF-101, measuring 2350 Square feet of Super Built Area, in the Apartment building known as "KAMAKSHI SHELTERS", together with 700 Square feet of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership and sital area comprising of the flat consisting of Three bedrooms, hall, Dining, kitchen, utility, bath room and toilets, consisting of flush doors and MS Windows, having Vitrified flooring and one covered car parking in Stilt/Basement floor in the Schedule 'A' Property.

The sale shall be subject to provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For further details regarding inspection of the property the intending bidder may contact the Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Building No.11/90, III Floor, Opp.Trustwell Hospital, Near Old Shivaji Theatre, J C Road, Bengaluru -560 002 Telephone: 080-2594-3678/3663 or Bank's approved Resolution Agent,Siddabasaveshwar Financial Services, Bangalore, Representative: Nagesh Patil - Mob.No.9886949449

To the best knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://baank.net

Date : 07.02.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India,
SARB, Bengaluru

STATE BANK OF INDIA

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB), BENGALURU

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name:Smt Jayalakshmi M
Chief Manager
e -mail Id: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in,
Mobile No: **6363887241**
Landline No. (Office): 080-2594 3663

Address of the Branch:
Building No.11/90, III Floor, Opp. Trust Well Hospital
J C Road, Bengaluru -560 002
CCO: Smt. Sandhya N - 8291975239
Tel: 080-2594-3678/3663
e -mail Id: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

APPENDIX- IV A

[See proviso to Rule 8 (6)]

E-AUCTION ON 04.03.2026

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties (excluding movables, if any, lying in the premises) under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and the Borrower/Mortgagor in particular that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, State Bank of India, Bengaluru, the actual physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **04.03.2026** for recovery of **Rs 1,72,32,582 (Rupees One Crore Seventy Two Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Two Only) as on 13.02.2026 and further interest at contractual rate from 14.02.2026** with incidental expenses + costs, charges etc., due to the Secured Creditor, State Bank of India from the **Borrower:Shri Jeberson Abraham J, S/o Shri Johnson Thangathurai,** (For A/c Nos.HTL 41314493096&41314170223).

The Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Bid increment amount and time of e-auction and last date for submission of EMD along with KYC documents for immovable property to be sold will be as under:

Prop-erty No.	Reserve Price (Below which the property will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid increment amount	Time of e-Auction of Property	Last date for submission of EMD along with KYC documents
1	Rs.54,00,000/-	Rs.5,40,000/-	Rs.50,000/-	04.03.2026 - 11.00 a.m. to 04.00 p.m.	On or before 04.03.2026 up to 10.30 A.M.
2	Rs.55,00,000/-	Rs.5,50,000/-	Rs.50,000/-	04.03.2026- 11.00 a.m. to 04.00 p.m.	On or before 04.03.2026 up to 10.30 A.M.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

SCHEDULE - 'A' PROPERTY

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Khata No.1/1 of Arehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now coming under the limits of the BBMP and assigned as property bearing new Municipal No.797/369/1/1, Property Serial No.797, situated at Arehalli, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.184, having new PID No.184-W0072-6, measuring East to West on the Northern Side 64 feet, on the Southern Side 44 feet (after 10 feet of road margin left towards South and Eastern Side) and North to South on the Eastern Side 52 feet and on the Western Side 48 feet, in all 2600 Square feet and the same is bounded on the: East by: Road, West by: Remaining portion of the same number, North by: Previously Road and now private property, South by: Private property.

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.5A, Assessment No.1/1, Katha No.39, situated at Arehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the jurisdiction of the BBMP and bearing BBMP Khata No.908/269/5A/1/1/39, measuring East to West 59.7+62.8/2 feet and North to South 10.5+10.10/2 feet, in all measuring 630.875 square feet and the same is bounded on the: East by: Road, West by:Property belongs to Sri. Shivarudrappa, North by: Private property, South by: Property belongs to Sri. Palappan.

Item No.3: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.1, Assessment No.1/1, Khata No.39, situated at Arehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the jurisdiction of the BBMP and bearing BBMP Khata No.906/267/1/1/39, measuring East to West 25+25.1/2 feet and North to South 66.1+64.10/2 feet, in all measuring 1630.755 Square feet and the same is bounded on the: East by: Site No.2 belongs to Smt. Rajamma, West by:Private property, North by: Private property and South by: Private property.

Item No.4: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.2, Assessment No.1/1, Khata No.39, situated at Arehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the jurisdiction of the BBMP and bearing BBMP Khata No.905/268/2/1/1/39, measuring East to West 25+24.9/2 feet and North to South 64.10+62.9/2 feet, in all measuring 1584.325 Square feet and the same is bounded on the: East by: Site No.3 belongs to Sri. Basavaraju, West by: Site No.1 belongs to Smt. Rudranamma, North by:Private property, South by: Private property.

Item No.5: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.3, Assessment No.1/1, Khata No.39, situated at Arehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the jurisdiction of the BBMP and bearing BBMP Khata No.909/284/1/1/39, Ward No.184 of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West 25 feet and North to South 50+51/2 feet, in all measuring 1262.5 Square feet and the same is bounded on the: East by: Property No.4 belongs to Sri. Shivarudrappa, West by: Property 2 belongs to Smt. Rajamma, North by:10 feet Road, South by: Private property.

Item No.6: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.3A, Assessment No.1/1, Khata No.39, situated at Arehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the jurisdiction of the BBMP and bearing BBMP Khata No.904/271/3A/1/1/39, measuring East to West 25+25.2/2 feet and North to South 10.9+ 11.10/2 feet, in all measuring 276.1 Square feet and the same is bounded on the: East by: Property belongs to Sri. Shivarudrappa, West by: Property belongs to Smt. Rajamma, North by: Private property and South by: Property belongs to Sri. N. Basavaraju.

Item No.7: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.4, Assessment No.1/1, Khata No.39, situated at Arehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the jurisdiction of the BBMP and bearing BBMP Khata No.907/270/3A/1/1/39, measuring East to West 50+49.10/2 feet and North to South 61.10+60.5/2 feet, in all measuring 3012.64 Square feet and the same is bounded on the: East by: Site No.5 belongs to Sri. Palappan, West by: Site No.3 belongs to Sri. Basavaraju, North by: Private property and South by: Private property.

AMALGAMATED SCHEDULE PROPERTY: (Description of the entire land properties)

All that piece and parcel of item Nos.1 to 7 of the Schedule – ' A' Property measuring East to West towards North 187.1 feet, towards South 158.11 feet and North to South towards East 62.10 feet and towards West 66.1 feet and the same is bounded on the: East by: Arehalli Main Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Private Property, South by: Private Property.

PROPERTY NO. 1 - For Loan Account No. 41314403906

Property ID: SBIN200065959405

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY (ENTIRE PROPERTY) : Above mentioned Item Nos 1 to 7 combined as amalgamated schedule property.

MORTGAGED PROPERTIES:

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY: (Description of the proportionate land share, hereby conveyed in favour of the purchaser): 312 Square feet of undivided share of right, title and interest in all that piece and parcel of the land in the amalgamated schedule property.

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY: (Description of the residential apartment/flat hereby conveyed in favour of the purchaser herein)

All that piece and parcel of the residential apartment/flat bearing unit **No.FF-101**, situated at first floor, having super built up area **1096 Square feet** in the above said apartment/ building known as **"SUMUKHA RESIDENCY"** along with **312 Square feet** of undivided share of land in the amalgamated schedule property herein, constructed in the amalgamated schedule property along with one covered car parking area bearing No.FF-101 in the basement/ stilt floor, finished with RCC roofing and vitrified tile flooring with water, electricity and sewerage amenities together with common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift/s, staircase/s and all other areas of common use etc. and the said flat standing in the name of Shri Jeberson Abraham J, S/o Shri Jhonson Thangathurai vide Sale Deed dated 13.10.2022 and Registered as Document No.BSG-1-05739/2022-23 and CD No.BSGD1301 dated 13.10.2022 at SRO, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru.

PROPERTY NO. 2 - For Loan Account No. 41314170223

Property ID: SBIN200065969928

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY: As mentioned above in Property No.(1)

MORTGAGED PROPERTIES:

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY: (Description of the proportionate land share, hereby conveyed in favour of the purchaser): 312 Square feet of undivided share of right, title and interest in all that piece and parcel of the land in the amalgamated schedule property.

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY: (Description of the residential apartment/flat hereby conveyed in favour of the purchaser herein): All that piece and parcel of the residential apartment/flat bearing unit **No.SF-201**, situated at Second Floor, having super built up area **1096 Square feet** in the above said apartment/ building known as **"SUMUKHA RESIDENCY"** along with **312 Square feet** of undivided share of land in the amalgamated schedule property herein, constructed in the amalgamated schedule property along with one covered car parking area bearing No.SF-201 in the basement/ stilt floor, finished with RCC roofing and vitrified tile flooring with water, electricity and sewerage amenities together with common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift/s, staircase/s and all other areas of common use etc. and the said flat standing in the name of Shri Jeberson Abraham J, S/o Shri Jhonson Thangathurai vide Sale Deed dated 13.10.2022 and Registered as Document No.BSG-1-05737/2022-23 and CD No.BSGD1301 dated 13.10.2022 at SRO, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE (2nd AUCTION) UNDER "SARFAESI" ACT,2002.

The Borrower/Mortgagor is hereby noticed to pay the sum mentioned above within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the Bank shall sell the properties as per the provisions laid down in the SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the links provided by the Secured Creditor represented by the Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, SARB, Bengaluru i.e.,

1)http://baanknet.com 2)www.sbi.co.in

For further details regarding inspection of the properties the intending bidder may contact the Authorised Officer as mentioned above or Bank's Approved Resolution Agent M/s Goodwill Recovery and Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru – Cell Nos.8762662278/9740367868

To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties.

Date:13.02.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorized Officer

3 killed as US military strikes another alleged drug boat in Caribbean

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	29	23	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	27	16	TDS	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	22	SNY	New York	2	-3	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	27	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	-6	-8	SNY
London	12	8	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Rubio seeks to reassure Europe on US alliance

MUNICH

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio sought to reassure a nervous Europe on Saturday, saying that Washington wanted to recharge the transatlantic alliance so that a strong Europe could help the US on its mission of global "renewal".

Speaking at a security conference in Munich after months of turmoil in US-European relations sparked by US President Donald Trump's vows to seize Greenland and his often derisive remarks about US allies, Washington's top diplomat struck a markedly soothing tone.

"We do not seek to separate, but to revitalise an old friendship and renew the greatest civilisation in human history," Rubio said, calling for "a reinvigorated alliance."

"We want Europe to be strong," Rubio said, adding that the continent and the US "belong together."

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio during the 62nd Munich Security Conference | AFP

He echoed Trump administration's oft-stated assertion that immigration posed a threat, saying that "mass migration" was "a crisis which is transforming and destabilising societies all across the West." He said that Europe and the US were "heirs to the same great and noble civilisation" and that he hoped Europe "together with us are willing and able to defend it."

Aside from immigration, Rubio otherwise largely avoided the MAGA flashpoint and culture war issues that German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Friday, had deepened a "rift" between US and Europe. Rubio's speech marked a sharp contrast to that of US Vice President JD Vance a year ago, when he used the same stage to attack European policies on a range of issues including free speech, shocking European allies. The Trump administration has also charged that Europe faced a "civilisational decline" and has courted far-right parties on the continent. Ties plunged last month when Trump stepped up threats to annex Greenland, an autonomous territory of NATO member Denmark, forcing European nations to stand firm in protest. Rubio was on Sunday due to travel to Slovakia and Hungary, European countries run by nationalist leaders endorsed by Trump. *AFP*

BNP'S TARIQUE RAHMAN POISED TO TAKE OATH AS B'DESH PM IN FOUR DAYS

Attention turns to policy direction, stability after decisive mandate

DHAKA

Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin is expected to administer the oath of office to the new cabinet of BNP chairman Tarique Rahman within next four days, officials said on Saturday. Rahman's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Friday secured a sweeping victory with more than two-thirds majority in the landmark parliamentary elections held on Thursday.

The BNP leader is set to become the prime minister, replacing the interim government chief Muhammad Yunus. "In line with the Constitution, the president will administer the oath at Bangabhaban," Cabinet Secretary Sheikh Abdur Rashid said without giving any specific date for the oath ceremony.But a senior BNP policy making leader, preferring anonymity, told PTI that the swearing in ceremony is expected to be held on February 16 or 17.

The Constitution requires the cabinet oath taking ceremony to be followed by the swearing-in of new parliament members while a key aide to Rahman said the existing legal scenario made the issue a little complicated. "The speaker of the last parliament is supposed to conduct the MPs' oath of office but she resigned and is living in an undisclosed location. The deputy speaker is in jail," he said, wishing not to be named.

In such circumstances, he said, the president might select someone to conduct the event of administering the lawmakers' oath as "the Constitution has kept a provision" for such an eventuality. The cabinet secretary, meanwhile, said the Constitution says the MPs-elect must take oath within three days of the gazette notification and then the majority party would elect its parliamentary leader.

Tarique Rahman addressing a press conference in Dhaka | EXPRESS

Asked for the possible date of cabinet's swearing in, Rashid said no date was fixed yet.

Meanwhile, Tarique Rahman prioritised law and order in Bangladesh "at any cost," saying the 13th general election opened a new chapter for building a safe and humane Bangladesh. He also spoke about revival of SAARC and how his government's foreign policy will be guided by "the greater interests of Bangladesh and its people." "Our paths and opinions may differ but in the interest of the country, we must remain united. I firmly believe that national unity is our collective strength while division is our weakness," Rahman told a press conference. *PTI*

Bangladesh gazettes new MPs, clears way for swearing-in

Bangladesh's Election Commission has published a gazette of newly elected members of Parliament from the 13th general election, paving the way for their swearing-in, media reports said on Saturday. The gazette was published for 297 out of the 300 parliamentary constituencies late on Friday, state-run BSS news agency reported. The notification was signed by Akhtar Ahmed, secretary of the Election Commission Secretariat. The next step is the swearing-in ceremony, which will officially seat them in Parliament, according to the bdnews24 news portal. Parliamentary elections were held on Thursday across 299 of the country's 300 constituencies, while the results from two seats were withheld. BNP bagged 209 out of 297 seats and is making a return to power after two decades.

WOMEN VOTED AGAINST FEAR MORE THAN IDEOLOGY TO KEEP JAMAAT OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Though Bangladesh has produced two powerful women prime ministers in its political history, the representation and participation of women in Bangladesh politics is poor.

Of the 12.7 crore voters, nearly half are women and male voters outnumber them by just 20-odd lakhs. And yet the number of women who contested the elections this time was a mere 85 out of over 2,000 candidates. The number who won was a shocking seven. Of the winners, six belong to the BNP. The seventh is an Independent who was earlier with BNP but walked out after she was denied a ticket.

Granular data on women's turnout and voting pattern is awaited, but they had queued up in conspicuously large numbers at the polling stations on 12 February and may have had a significant role in holding the Jamaat to 77 seats giving the BNP a clean sweep.

BNP's secret voter

Besides the women's vote, another reason for BNP's strong performance could be the secret vote of staunch Awami Leaguers, particularly women, who went out and voted in numbers for the BNP – not because they switched loyalty but to keep the Jamaat out.

Border Guard Bangladesh personnel stand guard outside the conference room where BNP chairman Tarique Rahman is addressing media in Dhaka | AFP

No one would speak on the record. But a 37-year-old male Dhaka resident whose family is traditionally pro-Awami League said he was stunned when a number of his "*fufis* and *mamis* and a variety of aunts" went and voted for the BNP. "I did not go to vote. But my aunts took a very firm and considered decision to vote BNP. They said it would be a kalanka – a disgrace -- if their non-participation in the election enabled the Jamaat came to power," he said.

The BNP may have also benefitted from the floating voter called "fleeting" or "sceptic" voters in Bangladesh who account for around 15% of votes. Not ideologically committed to any political party, they chose BNP this time since they did not have the Awami League option. Those who did not wish to waste their vote chose BNP as it is a "known devil" that Awami League has defeated in the past. The Jamaat in power is an unknown quantity.

BNP on 'probationary contract'

The Daily Star, a popular English newspaper in Dhaka, carried a "message" to the newly elected government from Naziba Basher, well know actor, dancer and a journalist at the paper. It was a message from a woman voter to the new party in power, poignant but steely.

"On one side stood a politics that openly imagines a future where women shrink, where our public lives are conditional, negotiated, permitted in moderation. On the other side stood a party whose history carries the smell of muscle, patronage and street power, a past heavy with intimidation and extortion....

"Many of us voted against fear more than for ideology. We voted to prevent our lives from being negotiated in theological committees. We voted so our ambitions would not require permission slips..." she wrote.

"You were not handed a mandate of love. You were handed a probationary contract. And women were central to that contract." Bangladesh's women have put the new government on notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We the undersigned by name **(1) Manjunath V.** (Mobile No: 70221-36819) S/o Late Venkateshappa **(2) Shashirekha G.P.** W/o. Manjunath V. Both are Residing at: Door No. 1831/57, LIC Colony, Behind Nuthan College, Davangere-577004 are the joint purchasers and owners of the schedule site which we had purchased through the registered sale deed vide its No.1st Book, Document No.NMG-1-01143-2018-19, CD No. NMGD426, Dated: 14-05-2018 registered by the Sub-Registrar of Nelamangala, Bengaluru. We had jointly purchased the said property from Geetha R. Patil @ Geetha S. Odugoudar D/o. Ramanagouda., Door No. 1466/5P, 1st Cross, Siddaveerappa Badavane, Davangere. Since the date of purchase that we both are the absolute owners and having rightful and peaceful possession and enjoyment over the schedule property which the property is having uninterruptable flow of title to us. The original sale deed was lost on 26-02-2021, at Noon 4.30 pm at Yashwanthapura Railway Station, Bengaluru. We have intimated towards lose of original sale deed to RMC Yard Police Station, Bengaluru through Written Complaint. The said police had accepted the written complaint from us and registered the case under Station GSC No.P01349210600159, Dated: 05-03-2021. The original sale deed if availed to anybody either direct or registered post/Courier or other authorized service pleased to forward to us or to intimate us through phone. We have arrived at your spot to collect the original sale deed. Anybody inform us in respect of the original document or forward of the same we are giving a Gift to them. If anybody misusing the same we are reserving our right to take action against them. Hence this public Notice.

SCHEDULE

Vacant site bearing No.173, Khatha No.463, property No.150300701900803288, as per Grama Panchayath Records property No.463/173, 'C' Block, measuring East-West 12.192 Mter, North-South 9.144 Mtrs totally measuring 111.48 Sq.Mtrs situated at: Mallapura Village, Kasaba Hobali, Vajarahalli Panchayath Limits, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, bounded by:-

East : Road, **West :** Site No.178,
North : Site No.174, **South :** Site No. 172.

S.H. RAVI, BA LL B Advocate,
No. 2847/2000, 3270/ M.C Colony, 'B' Block Davangere

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BENGALURU
O.A. 659/2019

BETWEEN: M/S STATE BANK OF INDIA
RACPC-2, Koramangala, No.12, 80 Feet Road, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560035, Represented By Its General Manager
...APPLICANT

AND: 1. Sri Karthik MV, S/o Late Sri MC Vasudeva Murthy, No.402, 4th Floor, 'B' Block, Oasis-9 Apartments, 7th Cross, Isro Layout, Bangalore-560078.
2. I.T Estates, No.2, Devasandra, Off Bel Road, Bangalore-5600094, Represented By Its Proprietor.
3. Sri N D Ravi, S/o Sri Doraiswamy Raju. Aged about 45 years, No.2. Devandra, Off Bel Road, Bangalore.
4. Sri KP Viswanath, S/o Sri K S Parthsarathy, No.27, 5th Cross, 7th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011.
5. Sri KP Harinath, S/o Sri K S Parthsarathy. No.27, 5th Cross, 7th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011
6. Sri LK Mani, S/o Late Sri L Krishnaiah Shetty., No.1414, Srita', 23rd Main Road Banashankari Second Stage, Bangalore-560070.
7. Sri P. Devender Reddy, S/o Sri.P Amrutha Reddy. No. 1-9-912/1, Postal Colony. Hanumakonda, Warangal District, Andhra Pradesh-506001
8. Mr. Rupam Buragohain Father's name not known, Residing at: House No. 101, D Block, Garden Residency, Sy No.108/2, Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District
9. Mr. Rishav Shina, Father's name not known Residing at: House No. 101, D Block, Garden Residency, Sy No. 108/2, Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District
...DEFENDANTS

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

WHEREAS, the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 for recovery of sum of **Rs. 66,36,781.00 (Rupees Sixty Six Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty One Only)** with cost and present interest with monthly rests plus penal interest and other reliefs has been made to this Tribunal. You are impleaded as Defendant No.8 and 9. You are hereby directed to be present before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agent in support of your defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or **on 24.03.2026 at 10:30 AM** as to why relief should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **9th February 2026**

By Order Of The Tribunal, Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II Bangalore

CLASSIFIEDS

brides

Hindu Nadar, 41yrs/185cm, M.Tech (IIT Madras), works in an MNC in Bangalore, eggetarian, teetotaller, seeks never married, suitable bride. Caste No Bar.
Contact us at Ph: 9840117920

Sengunthar, Kettai
31 years
IFS (Forest) Officer
(Gujarat Cadre)
Seeks Suitable Bride from Civil Services / Doctors, willing to relocate to Gujarat
Please Contact
94434 28948

QuoteExpress
ONE BOOK, ONE PEN, ONE CHILD, AND ONE TEACHER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD
MALALA YOUSAFZAI

QuoteExpress
YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR INSPIRATION. YOU HAVE TO GO AFTER IT WITH A CLUB › JACK LONDON

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SBC-GSU-ENGG-2026-01

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Composite tender - Heavy Lifting Bay with 50 EOTC gantry, 20m span x 84m length with two pits of 50m length (Road 3&4), stair case arrangement for overhead crane maintenance, provision of compressed air pipelines (500m) duly dismantling old battery section and abandoned Laboratory buildings, Extension of Inspection and Testing Facility (Road 3&4), 24m x 15m with pit line of 48m length, Realignment of Permanent way of Road 3 &4 for 250m, Heavy duty flooring outside the bays on Whitefield end - 20m x 10m, Leaned roof shed for Under Truck component storage 35m x 5m x 4m height, Service building for Modification M&P, Improvements in flooring of issue ward 46 m x 12.4m, Loco roof leak test facility, Widening of existing Road and provision of new road at Wheel Lathe area 200m x 5m wide with one track crossing, Construction of Toilet block (2 no's), Construction of GLR 2 lakh litres capacity (1 no), Extension of rain water trap drain - 110m with Heavy duty steel covers and CC flooring 60m x 25m duly dismantling old flooring, Battery Charging Room 20m x 8m and road approach flooring, Staff Hand wash facility, Proposed new scrap yard, Renovation of Officer Chambers (4no's), Scooter parking arrangements 120m x 4m in the Existing scrap yard, Heavy Duty flooring in Machine repair Bay and Under Truck Bay 70m x 12m including replacement of rain water drainage covers, Clean Room facility for Traction Motor Overhauling, TM Blowing Room, GLR for Effluent, Hand washing facility, Extension of Trip Shed on Road 1&2 from existing 72m to 120m with two additional inspection pits on each of the two lines including straightening of tracks, Cement concrete road of 5.5m wide to a length of 160 metres with 160 metre length one side barricading around Training centre and Two floor Service building for control room and meeting room with dust proof arrangements (2x10m x 16m) and other allied works in connection with Krishnarajapuram - Augmentation of Shed for increasing homing capacity from 150 - 175	Rs. 23,05,79,635.80

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs on 02-03-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti
PUB/902/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform ticktes, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG - 36 of 2025-26, Letter No. 864 /Dtd. 09/02/2026

25001/130/2526 **e-Procurement NOTICE**

1. Type of the Work : Roads (MMSY)
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-36 of 2025-26	18.02.2026 11:00 AM	06.03.2026 5:00 PM	05.03.2026 5:00 PM	07.03.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

OIPR-25001/25133/1/25-26/0041

Sd/-Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI-600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967

(ONLINE ONLY)

e-Tender Notice - NIT No.31 SP-II/MMLP/2026, Dt.14.02.2026

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, tenders are invited under "**Two Cover System**" through online only for the following work from **qualified Bidders**. Tenders will be received up to **15.30 Hrs** (as per server system clock) on **30.03.2026** and the same will be opened on **31.03.2026** at **15.30 Hrs** (as per server system clock).

Availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **18.02.2026** in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in**

If any changes / corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website.

Name of Work	EMD
Selection of Concessionaire for Development of Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) under PPP mode on DBFOT basis with a concession period of 60 years in SIPCOT Industrial Park, Thoothukudi	Rs.1,00,00,000 /-*
* EMD should be paid only through **eBG** (as per list of Banks attached in the RFP)	
The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in**	

DIPR/ 1112 /Tender/2026

MANAGING DIRECTOR

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

(erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	10073473207	BBG	1. M/s Sree Raghavendra Distributors 2. C S Sumanth 3. Chitlur Gopal Krishnaiah Setty Sureshbabu 4. Suprbha Suresh 5. Sai Srushti Agencies	03.02.2026	INR 1,26,15,130.00/-

Property Address : All That Piece And Parcel Of A Three Bedroom Apartment Bearing Flat No. 405 On The Fourth Floor, Measuring Super Built-up Area Of 1600.00 Sq. Ft. With Rcc Roofing And Vitrified Tile Flooring (which Is Inclusive Of Proportionate Share Of Common Areas Such As, Staircase, Passage, Ducts, Power Room, Watch-man House, Association Room, General Toilet Etc.,) Along With-one Covered Car Parking Space, An Undivided Share Measuring 626.21 Sq. Ft. On The Main Schedule Property Measuring 150603 Square Feet, In The Building Known As "Janhavi Enclave" Constructed On The Immovable Residential Converted Land Bearing Survey No. 35/3, BBMP Khatha No. 1489/35/3, New Pid No. 175-w0278-16, Situated At Kodichikannahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka-560076, (land Converted Vide Official Memorandum No. Bds:aln:sr (s) 133/2007-08 Dated 17.10.2008) And Bounded On The Following Boundaries : **East By: Road, West By : Land Belongs To Sri. K.j. Jeevan, North By: Private Property And South By: Private Property**

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC First Bank Limited
(erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)

Date : 15.02.2026
Place : Bangalore, Karnataka

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned "Schedule Property" from its lawful owners,

Mrs. SALY THOMAS
Mr. ROBIN T. GEORGE
(Represented by his GPA holder & Brother - Mr. Libin T. George)
Mr. LIBIN T. GEORGE

Having acquired the same through a Registered Sale Deed by Late Mr. Thomas George (husband of Mrs.Saly Thomas and Father of Mr. Robin T. George & Mr. Libin T. George) dtd: 07.03.2002 from Sri. T.R.Venkatesh, vide Registered Document No.: BNG(U)-BLR(S)-12740/2001-02, of Book-I, at the office of the Sub-registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.

Anyone having any objections to the proposed sale may lodge their claim with the undersigned with related documents, **within 21 (Twenty One) days from the date of this publication**, failing which my client would proceed with further transaction and documentation / execution of sale deed, and any claim lodged thereafter shall not be reckoned with and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No.599-A**, measuring East to West: 60 Feet & North to South: 40 Feet, in all measuring 2400 Square Feet; Katha No.255/5, **formed out of Sy. Nos. 80/1 and 92/1, of Doddathoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District**, bounded on East by: Site No.626-A; West by: Road; North by: Site No. 599-B; South by: Site No.599.

Bangalore. Date: 15/02/2026
Lepanna R.
Advocate. KAR/1057/2008
No. 46/4, 1st Floor, Brindavan Comple, 4th Cross Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560003.
Mob: 98456 62048

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **("Client")** is desirous of entering into sale and development transactions in connection with the immovable property morefully described in the 'Schedule' hereto and hereinafter referred to as **'Schedule Property'**. The present owner of the Schedule Property being Mrs. Anitha Loganadan, daughter of Late Jaswanthy Loganadan & Late Dr. Sampath Loganadan, wife of Priyadarshi Bajpai, aged about 70 years, residing at Flat No. 33, Cunningham Apartments, 5, Edward Road, Bangalore-560052 **(Owner')** has represented that she is the absolute owner of the **'Schedule Property'**, as detailed in the Schedule hereto, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the present Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, interest or claims whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their objections, if any, to the proposed transaction in connection with the Schedule Property. The said objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s and should reach us at the address given below within a period of **15 (Fifteen)** days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the present Owner has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being bearing Southern Half Portion of Ground Floor of office building having mosaic tiles with RCC roof, parking lots with a built up area of 1124 square feet together with common area and 1/6th undivided share in the land bearing Site.No. 143, BBMP PID No. 76-19-51/9 in Richmond Road, Bangalore-560025 and bounded on the: **East by:** 30 feet road (Rathna Avenue); **West by:** Property of Mrs. Mohana Venugopal, **North by:** Property allotted to Laika A. Sreenivasan; and **South by:** Richmond Road.

(Sd/-) Tejas Khiraiya Partner,
Dharma Law Partners,
507, Westminster Building, Cunningham Road, Bangalore- 560 052
Date: 10.02.2026.

All the news. In just a click. Log to www.newindianexpress.com

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

/thenewindianxpress @newindianxpress +The New Indian Express

Google Play App Store

QuoteExpress
OPPORTUNITY DOES NOT KNOCK, IT PRESENTS ITSELF WHEN YOU BEAT DOWN THE DOOR › KYLE CHANDLER

5.6% of GDP India is spending on climate action, up from 3.7% six years ago, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman told media in Munich, Germany on Saturday.

SMALL STEPS FOR A GIANT LEAP

Marico is targeting smaller, high-potential, founder-led brands that fill portfolio gaps and can be scaled fast, instead of costly purchase

YEAR	BRAND / COMPANY	PRODUCT CATEGORY	STAKE ACQUIRED	DEAL SIZE
2017	Beardo	Men's grooming & personal care (D2C)	45% initially	₹35–40 crore
2021	Just Herbs	Ayurvedic beauty & personal care	60%	₹410 crore
2022	True Elements	Healthy breakfast cereals & snacks	54%	₹350 crore
2022	Beauty X Corporation	Women's personal care (Vietnam)	85%	₹300+ crore (est.)
2023	Plix (Satiya Nutraceuticals)	Plant-based nutrition & supplements	58%	₹369 crore
2025	Plix (additional stake)	Plant-based nutrition & supplements	Increased to 60%	Not disclosed
2025	True Elements (bal. stake)	Healthy foods & snacks	Add. 46.02%	₹138 crore
2026	4700BC (Zea Maize)	Premium popcorn & snacking	93.27%	₹226.8 crore
2026	Cosmix	Plant protein & wellness nutrition	60%	₹130–150 cr (est.)
2026	Skinetiq	D2C beauty & personal care (Vietnam)	75%	₹350 crore

PLAN FOR ORGANIC, INORGANIC GROWTH

Marico's management has reiterated that its long-term growth will be a mix of organic and inorganic expansion. With categories such as premium beauty, wellness nutrition and healthy snacking growing faster than legacy segments, it is using acquisitions to quickly build credible positions in emerging spaces. The recent deals signal that Marico's next phase of growth will be driven by premiumisation, digital-first brands, and a disciplined M&A strategy

Marico targets digital growth via three 'string of pearls' deals

Buyouts show company wants to become online-first firm by expanding addressable mkt

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

MARICO Ltd's recent acquisition spree across skincare, wellness nutrition and gourmet snacking is not a set of isolated bets, but part of a clearly articulated strategy to build a portfolio of premium, digital-first brands that can be rapidly scaled using the company's distribution, backend and go-to-market strengths.

Within weeks, the FMCG major has announced three transactions — a 75% stake in Vietnam-based D2C skincare company Skinetiq; a 60% stake in digital-first wellness brand Cosmix in India; and a 93.27% stake in gourmet snacking brand 4700BC from PVR INOX. Together, these deals underline what management describes as a 'string of pearls' approach to acquisitions — targeting smaller, high-potential, founder-led brands that fill portfolio gaps and can be scaled fast, instead of pursuing large, expensive buyouts.

Vietnam bet

Through its wholly-owned subsidiary Marico South-East Asia Corporation, Marico will acquire 75% in Skinetiq at an equity valuation of about ₹350 crore. Founded in 2020, Skinetiq owns science-backed skincare brand Candid and has exclusive distribution rights for global clinical skincare brand Murad in Vietnam.

The company scaled to about ₹152 crore in revenues in CY2025 with mid-twenties EBITDA margins, driven largely by e-commerce and social commerce.

Vietnam's beauty market, where nearly 50% of category consumption is now driven by online and social channels, fits neatly into Marico's digital-first international playbook.

Presence via Cosmix

In India, Marico signed definitive agreements to acquire 60% in Cosmix Wellness at an equity valuation of about ₹375 crore. Cosmix, founded in 2019, is a plant-based nutrition and functional wellness brand that has scaled to about ₹100 crore annual run rate in the last six months with a high-teen EBITDA margin. The brand is built primarily through its D2C website and e-commerce platforms.

Cosmix strengthens Marico's presence in the fast-growing nutraceuticals and plant-protein segment, alongside Plix, True Elements, Beardo and Just Herbs.

4700BC fills gap

In January, Marico agreed to acquire 93.27% in Zea Maize Pvt Ltd, which owns gourmet snacking brand 4700BC.

The brand, known for popcorn, makhana, popped chips and nachos, has built a strong premium positioning across offline, online and institutional channels. Marico sees 4700BC as filling a gap in its foods portfolio in premium gourmet snacking, a segment aligned with its 'better-for-you' foods strategy.

According to Elara Securities, 4700BC and True Elements will have accelerated path to profitability due to synergy benefits. "Gross contribution margin of the brand is ahead of Marico's Foods business," it says.

What ties these acquisitions together is Marico's growing emphasis on digital-led growth as a central pillar of its future strategy.

In its Q3 FY26 earnings presentation, Marico said its portfolio of digital-first brands is expected to see exit annual run rate (ARR) of about 2.5 times FY24 levels by FY27, upgraded from an earlier target of 2 times. The company also expects these digital brands to deliver double-digit EBITDA margins by FY27.

Beardo, which was acquired by the company in 2017, has scaled nearly four times since FY21 and is already delivering double-digit EBITDA margins, while Plix (acquired in 2023) has begun delivering single-digit EBITDA margins as it scales in nutraceuticals and personal care.

Marico outlined an ambition to significantly expand its total addressable market (TAM) through digital businesses across nutraceuticals, skin and hair care, bath and shower, men's grooming, healthy snacks, protein range and kids' categories over the next three years.

The company management has repeatedly stressed that the real value of these acquisitions lies in plugging them into Marico's existing scale.

"There will be huge opportunities in shared costs when they come into the Marico fold. There will be no incremental investment to expand into general trade," MD & CEO Saugata Gupta said during the earnings call after the third quarter results in January.

The company's Project SETU, a three-year plan to expand direct reach in general trade by 1.5 times by FY27, is expected to further help newly acquired brands expand offline distribution without heavy investments.

Marico said its foods portfolio is already five times its FY20 scale and is on track to become eight times by FY27, with gross margin expansion of around 200 basis points ahead.

NEWSCOPE

MORE POWER TO RERA TO REIN IN REALTORS

GURBIR SINGH

REMARKS by the apex court on the functioning of the Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act (RERA), a 2016 legislation to protect home buyers, has set the proverbial cat among the pigeons. Chief Justice Surya Kant, hearing a plea by the Himachal Pradesh government to be allowed to shift its RERA offices from Shimla to Dharamshala, noted the institution was doing nothing except 'facilitating' defaulting builders.

He noted consumers were "completely disappointed", and that it would be "better to abolish this institution..." He also suggested "the states should revisit and rethink of even constituting this authority."

Responding to long-standing demands for protection against cheating builders, the Congress-led UPA government introduced a home buyers protection bill in 2013. It underwent many changes, was passed by Parliament in 2016, and finally notified for implementation from May 1, 2017. While RERA is a central act, it is the states who notify the rules and appoint regulators for the Act's implementation.

RERA came not a day too soon. The real estate industry was replete with cases of promoters taking advances from buyers, and thereafter not being able to deliver their homes. In the Delhi-NCR region, builders Sanjay and Ajay Chandra, former promoters of Unitech, have been in and out of jails for over a decade since 2011 for cheating and money laundering. In Mumbai, Dharmesh Jain of Nirmal Lifestyle, was arrested in April 2023 for cheating 34 flat-buyers of ₹11 crore.

Flawed implementation

RERA is essentially a consumer protection act tailored to ensure transparency and track compliance. All projects are required to be registered with the Regulatory Authority. To ensure money is not siphoned off, developers have to deposit 70% of the funds raised into an escrow account dedicated for the project. Builders must disclose project layouts, approvals, and timelines, and cannot change plans without the buyers' consent. If projects are delayed, developers are liable to be penalized. The regulator is also required to set up dedicated tribunals, and dispose of complaints within 60 days.

The problem is not with the act, it is with its implementation. Over the last eight years of its functioning, RERA's has delivered patchy results. In Maharashtra, the MahaRERA had a good track record of over 50,000 project registrations, accounting for 69% of all projects registered in the country. It has also recorded the highest number of complaints received — 31,000 by 2025, of which nearly 80% were heard and resolved through 'conciliation' or adjudication.

In most states, though, either the tribunals are not set up or are non-functional, and there is hardly any complaint disposal

SOURAV ROY

machinery. Even in Maharashtra, by the end of 2025, the tribunals had over 8,000 complaints awaiting hearing.

However, RERA's weakest link is its inability to implement its own orders. In the documented case of Sumeet Mehta, a resident of the Mumbai suburb of Goregaon, he has been awaiting recovery of the 75% down payment he made to a builder since January 2024, though an order has been passed in his favour.

Section 40 (1) of the act provides for the recovery of payments and penalties. However, after a RERA Tribunal passes an order, consumers have to run from pillar to post to enforce the order. As things stand, the order has to be first converted into a 'warrant' by the district magistrate or collector, a lengthy process in itself; and then the 'warrant' has to be executed by auctioning assets using the police machinery.

In Maharashtra, till about a year ago, 'warrants' for recovery of ₹980 crore were issued by the RERA tribunal, but only ₹209 crore had been actually recovered. In most states, the legal machinery hardly functions with builders brazenly disobeying directions of the RERA Authority and the tribunals. In some states, the RERA Authority does not even have the machinery to monitor the progress of the registered projects. The Uttarakhand RERA for instance recently complained that, of the 643 projects registered with it since its inception, the Authority had information only about completion of 163 projects. "RERA can only function if there is 90-95% compliance. If the majority don't comply, how can anything be enforced," a former chairman of MahaRERA, Gautam Chatterjee, once told this writer.

Tighter enforcement

Despite all its ills, this does not mean that the legislation must be repealed. The process of registration of projects under Section 5 of RERA, the monitoring of the progress of projects, and the power given to consumers to file and process complaints against developers and realtors, has had a welcome deterrent effect.

In 2022, the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority issued an order freezing the bank accounts of three mass housing projects of Ocean Seven Buildtech (OSB). Dozens of Mumabi builders have been fined heavily, upto ₹20 lakh in some cases, for issuing misleading advertisements. These have had a salutary effect on those wanting to bend the law.

That said, the legislation needs to be drastically amended to provide more resources and teeth to the real estate regulatory authority. Perhaps, the RERA machinery has been deliberately understaffed. The dispute resolution machinery should be beefed up with more tribunals and faster closure of cases. RERA officials require stronger execution powers. This must include dedicated recovery cells to enforce monetary orders. Finally, stricter penalties for non-compliance, including criminal action where necessary, will clean up the industry faster.

Business & Beyond

Central Bank of India organises MSME credit outreach in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack

MSMEs are the backbone of India's economy, contributing significantly to employment, innovation & income generation. To ensure their sustained growth & competitiveness, the Government of India, along with financial institutions, has introduced a wide range of dedicated schemes. The bank has launched its Nationwide MSME Credit Outreach Programme throughout the country aimed at uplifting enterprises by providing timely credit, financial support, & sector-specific solutions that enable MSMEs to expand & thrive. Simultaneously, its Bhubaneswar Region also organised a mega MSME credit outreach programme in Cuttack.

Bridge And Roof company accorded Schedule 'A' status

Bridge And Roof Company (India) Limited, a CPSE under Ministry of Heavy Industries, has been upgraded as a Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) by the Government of India. This milestone has been achieved under the dynamic leadership of Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Chairman & Managing Director of the Company. The decision was communicated officially on February 13, 2026. The Bridge And Roof is one of India's largest and most versatile multidisciplinary engineering and construction organizations, offering end-to-end services from concept to commissioning, executing large-scale projects of national and strategic importance across key industrial and infrastructure sectors. The upgradation will further enhance itsoperational autonomy, provide greater flexibility in decision-making.

Paradip Port shows record growth, strategic role in Odisha's economic vision

Anu Garg, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, visited Paradip Port Authority (PPA) to review its operations and long-term expansion plans. She was received by P. L. Haranadh, IRTS, Chairman, PPA, at the Wet Basin and accorded a Ceremonial Guard of Honour by the CISF Unit. She also took a launch ride to review berth readiness, vessel traffic management systems, and marine operations. Paradip Port achieved a record cargo handling of 150.41 MMT in FY 2024–25, ranking as India's No. 1 Major Port. With a rated capacity of 289 MTPA, industry-leading productivity, and a provisional net surplus of ₹1,860 crore, the Port continues to set national benchmarks while maintaining the lowest vessel and cargo charges among major ports. She outlined Odisha's ambitious economic roadmap targeting $500 billion by 2036 and $1.5 trillion by 2047.

Nvidia CEO to skip India's AI summit

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang has cancelled his visit to India to attend the India AI Impact Summit scheduled for February 16 to 20. According to the company's official statement, his visit was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances; however, Nvidia will send a senior delegation to attend the event. The company has sent a letter of regret to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and has pledged to send a strong delegation to the India AI Impact Summit 2026 to make up for Huang's absence.

"Due to unforeseen circumstances, Jensen Huang is unable to travel to India at this time. NVIDIA remains deeply committed to the AI Impact Summit and to India's rapidly advancing AI ecosystem. A senior NVIDIA delegation, led by Executive Vice President Jay Puri, will be on the ground to celebrate India's exceptional AI researchers, startups, developers, and the partners building the nation's AI infrastructure," said the company in a statement.

Despite Huang's absence, the summit is expected to witness significant global participation. Confirmed attendees include Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, along with several world leaders such as Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The UN Secretary-General and senior officials from multiple international organisations are also slated to attend.

Officials from MeitY said the summit is not primarily investment-driven, though some MoUs may be signed. Briefing the media, an official said the event aims to democratize access to AI resources and foster the development of globally relevant AI applications, creating new opportunities for Indian companies and startups. With 2.5 lakh registrations so far, it is expected to be the largest AI-focused gathering globally.

The event will also see quick commerce players Zepto and Swiggy provide delivery services within the Pragati Maidan exhibition complex by setting up dark stores on the premises.

RBI grants approval for Bain Capital to acquire joint control in Manappuram

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

Manappuram Finance Limited on Saturday announced that it has received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to allow Bain Capital acquire 41.66% joint control and shareholding in the company as the latter is committed to take 18% stake for ₹4,385 crore.

The preferential allotment of equity shares and warrants will be done at ₹236 per share. The Bain Capital will invest through its subsidiaries BC Asia Investments XXV Limited and BC Asia Investments XIV Limited.

The transaction also triggers a mandatory open offer for the purchase of an additional 26.0% stake from public shareholders at ₹236 per share, in accordance with the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011, the Manappuram Finance Ltd in a press release.

"Based on the open offer subscription, Bain Capital's stake post-investment will vary between 18.0% and 41.7% on a fully diluted basis. The existing promoters will hold 28.9% post-investment on a fully diluted basis."

With this approval, Bain Capital will be classified as a promoter of the Company and will jointly control Manappuram Finance along with the existing promoters.

VP Nandakumar, MD & CEO, Manappuram Finance Limited, said: "We are pleased to receive the RBI's approval for the proposed investment by Bain Capital. This is an important milestone and reflects the strength of our governance framework and business model."

EXPRESS READ

Brandman Retail listed on NSE at ₹176

NEW DELHI: Brandman Retail, a distributor and retailer for the premium athleisure and lifestyle brands, has been listed on NSE at a valuation of ₹324.85 crore. The company, which has an IPO price of ₹176, settled at ₹211.80 on NSE on Friday. Brandman Retail, which has raised ₹86 crore through IPO, will invest the proceeds in store expansion, working capital support, and corporate purposes.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

REGIONAL OFFICE WEST
Chitrapur Mutt Complex,
Malleswaram 15th Cross,
Bangalore-560055.

(Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property)

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive/physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of , **Canara Bank, Regional Office West, Bengaluru (Secured Creditor),** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is"** on **17.03.2026, 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM** for recovery of below mentioned amount.

E-AUCTION DATE : 17.03.2026

Borrower and Mortgagor: (1) M/s.VRR Aqua Traders No.401 Pent House, 9th Main, HRBR Layout, 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560043, Karnataka,**1A. M/s. VRR Aqua Traders,** Registered Office: No.19-16-11k, Ward No.11, Katarai Nagar, Bhimavaram, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh-5242011, **1B.1A. M/s. VRR Aqua Traders,** #S2, II Floor, Gem Plaza, No. 66, Infantry Road, Bangalore – 560001. **2. Mr. Budharaju Venkata Ravi Kumar Raju (director)** Co Budharaju Ranganadha Raju, No.48 M 456, 1st Block, HRBR Layout, kalyanangar, 4th Cross, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560043 Karnataka. **2A.Mr. Budharaju Venkata Ravi Kumar Raju (director)** No.7BM-456, Situated At I Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, 4th Cross, 7th "B" Main, Bangalore-560043. **2B. Mr. Budharaju Venkata Ravi Kumar Raju (director)** Flat No.302, Punnami Towers, T.V.Tower Road, ASR Nagr, Bhimavaram, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh-534202. **3. M/s Dupoint Advisory Private Limited,** Represented By Director, Mr. Budharaju Venkata Ravi Kumar Raju Flat No.302, Punnami Towers, T.V.Tower Road, ASR Nagar, Bhimavaram, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh-534202. **3A. M/s Dupoint Advisory Private Limited,** (formerly Doopadagiri Corporate Services Private Limited), Registered Office, #S2, II Floor, Gem Plaza, No. 66, Infantry Road, Bangalore – 560001. **4. Mrs. Ramadevi Budharaju (director)** M/s Dupoint Advisory Private Limited, (formerly Doopadagiri Corporate Services Private Limited), Registered Office, #S2, II Floor, Gem Plaza, No. 66, Infantry Road, Bangalore – 560001.,

Total liabilities : Rs.6,63,98,055.00 (Rupees Six Crores Sixty Three Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand and Fifty Five Only) as on **12-02-2026** and interest and other charges thereon from **13-02-2026**

Reserve Price : Rs.7,21,18,800/- **EMD : Rs. 72,11,880/-**

Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before: **16.03.2026 - 4.00 p.m.**

Details of Property/ies:

Schedule 'A' Propety: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.66,situated at Infantry Road, Civil Station, Division No.70, Bangalore 560001, with the entire commercial complex thereon and known as "Gem Plaza", and bounded as follows, East by: Property bearing No.67 ,Infantry Road West by: Property bearing No.64, Infantry Road North by: Property facing Hospital Road South by: Infantry Road, Measuring East to West 210'(64 mts) on the eastern side and 218'6"(66.59 mts) on the Southern side and North to South 234'(71.32 mtrs) on the Eastern side and 200'4"(61.06 mtrs) on the Western side, in all about 50,150 square feet or 4,659 square meters.

Schedule 'B' Propety: All that piece and parcel of the contiguous units bearing Nos S-8(a) & S-8(b), BBMP No.66/56, PID No.79-43-66/56, & S-9 (a) & S-9(b), BBMP no.66/57, PID No.79-43-66/57, in the Second floor of the Schedule 'A' property, with a total super built area of 2,832 sq.ft and undivided share and interest in the land equivalent to 934.56 sq.ft, out of a total land area of 50,156 sq.ft with three open car parks bearing Nos. 56, 67 & 68 in the ground floor.

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank, Regional Office West, e-mail id roblrwrec@canarabank.com & cb1145@canarabank.com (Mob No 9063837573/ 9886918883/ 7411509379 **OR the service provider BAANKNET https://Baanknet.com/ (M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd) (Contact No 7046612345/ 6354910172/ 8291220220/ 9892219848/ 8160205051,** during office hours on any working day.

Date : 14.02.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

ENTRANCE-2026
INDIRA GANDHI RASHTRIYA URAN AKADEMI
Fursatganj Airfield, Distt. Amethi (U.P.)-229302
(An Autonomous Body Under the Ministry Of Civil Aviation Govt. of India)
ISO 9001-2008 Certified
"PROVIDE WINGS TO DREAMS"
Join India's Best Flying & AME Training Institute

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) invites applications for:
1. 125 seats for Ab-initio to Commercial Pilot License course, scheduled to commence from July 2026 onwards in two batches.
2. **30** seats for Integrated **"Aircraft Maintenance Engineering & B.Sc. Aircraft Maintenance Engineering"** Programme approved by DGCA & affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University scheduled to commence from July 2026.

1. Eligibility for Ab-initio to Commercial Pilot License course:-
Must have passed English, Mathematics & Physics at 10+2 or equivalent and minimum marks obtained in above individual subjects for candidates in General Category are 50% and for candidates in **SC, ST, EWS and OBC** (belonging to non-creamy layer) category are 45%.
Marital Status - Single, unmarried, **Age:** 28 years for General candidates, 31 years for OBC and 33 years for SC/ST.
Training fee: Rs. 55 Lacs plus Boarding-Lodging and other expenses extra.
IGRUA also offers pilot aspirants B.Sc. Aviation degree along with their CPL training: Duration 3 Years exclusively for CPL trainees at IGRUA.

2. Eligibility for Integrated Aircraft Maintenance Engineering & B.Sc. Programme: -
Must have passed 10+2 examination in Physics and Maths or its equivalent (Diploma in engineering recognized by state technical education board where physics and maths have been studied as subject shall be considered as equivalent qualification. To prove the equivalence to 10 +2, the applicant is required to submit a certificate from applicable board/University). Minimum marks obtained in above individual subjects for candidates in General Category are 50% and for candidates in SC, ST, EWS and OBC (belonging to non-creamy layer) category are 45%.
Training fee: Rs. 6,57,500/- plus Boarding - Lodging and other expenses extra.

The last date of filling of ONLINE application is 13th Apr 2026 (fee payment by online mode). The date of online examination 03rd May 2026.
For detailed information and application formats etc. please visit "ENTRANCE" on IGRUA website https://igrua.gov.in or Scan the QR code to apply
www.igrua.gov.in
☎ +91 (11)24615370, 24655796.
☎ +91 (535) 2978001 EXTN 414
From 9a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mob: 7607088040
helpdesk-exam@igrua.gov.in query-amesch@igrua.gov.in

CBC03104/12/0004/2526

Govt of Karnataka
O/o Executive Engineer,
PWD, Udupi Division Udupi - 576101
C.No: (0820) 2531802

No.PWD:UDN:NIT-48:2025-26:AE-2 Dated: 12.02.2026

Short Term Tender Notification

It is here by notified for the information of intending registered contractor, of Class -III in Karnataka PWD, through e-portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" as per Karnataka tranperency in public procurement act- 2023, as per specified terms & condition notified there in. The Last date for submission of tender on **21.02.2026** through E-procurement portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" under **5054 MDR Improvement** head, work costing **Rs. 119.90 (excluding GST)**. For more information contact office during office hours.

Executive Engineer
Public Works Department, Udupi Division Udupi

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned "Schedule Property" from its lawful owner,

Mr. C.C. CHACKO

Having acquired the same through a Registered Sale Deed dtd: 07.03.2002 from Sri. T.R.Venkatesh, vide Registered Document No.: BNG(U)-BLR(S)-12742/2001-02, of Book-I, at the office of the Sub-registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.

Anyone having any objections to the proposed sale may lodge their claim with the undersigned with related documents, **within 21 (Twenty One) days from the date of this publication**, failing which my client would proceed with further transaction and documentation / execution of sale deed, and any claim lodged thereafter shall not be reckoned with and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No.599-B**, measuring East to West: 60 Feet & North to South: 40 Feet, in all measuring 2400 Square Feet; Katha No.255/5, **formed out of Sy. Nos. 80/1 and 92/1, of Doddathoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District**, bounded on the East by: Site No.626-B; West by: Road; North by: Private Property; South by: Site No.599-A.

Bangalore. Date: 15/02/2026

Lepanna R.
Advocate. KAR/1057/2008
No. 46/4, 1st Floor, Brindavan Comple, 4th Cross Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560003.
Mob: 98456 62048

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the schedule property mentioned herein from **Sri. Sheik Sirajuddin Alias Siraj Sheik** S/o Sri. S. M. Kasim, aged about 70 years, r/at No. 14th Ward, KHB Colony, Sandur, Bellary District, having secured the same from BDA, vide sale deed dated 20/08/2002 representing that he is the true and lawful owner and having a good, valid marketable, right title and interest and free from prior charges, encumbrances, lien, court attachments etc., have an unfettered, indefeasible right to alienate,

However, it is notified to the general public at large that in the event of any claim, charge, lien etc., the same should be brought known to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence within a period of **15 days** and in the event of failure, my client will proceed to purchase in accordance with law. Any claim lodged thereafter, shall be at their peril.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of BDA **Site bearing No. 579,** BBMP PID No.100-757-579, municipal No. 579 formed in Sy.No. 36/1 & 2 of **Nagashettihalli, 2nd Stage, Rajamahal Vilas Extension,** presently coming under the limits of Ward No. 18/Radha Krishna Temple Road, measuring **East to West: 45-0 ft., North to South: 60-0 ft., totally measuring 2,700 sft.,**

And bounded on:
East by: Site bearing No.580
West by: Site bearing No.578
North by: Site bearing No.575 and 574
South by: Road

Address for service
Angadi Associates
S.V.Angadi, Sujata.S.Angadi,
Rajendra. S. Angadi, Advocates,
No.24, Pipeline Main Road
Next to 7th 'B' Cross, Malleshwaram,
Bengaluru-560 003.
Mob: 98452-92045, Ph: 080-23314922,
rsangadi@gmail.com

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

No.: CEE/T&P/SEE-2/2025-26/9809-20 Date: 13.02.2026

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following Services against following enquiry number.

Sl. No.	Enquiry No. and Name of the Services
1.	**KPTCL/2025-26/SE2344** Deployment of Consultants for the work of Preparation of Cost Estimates and Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for substations, Transmission lines and Augmentation works to be taken up by KPTCL.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.02.2026 @ 15:00hrs. Last date & time for receipt of Bids and any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy.,
Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, 9th Floor, Indhana Bhavana, Anand Rao Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru – 560 009.

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/08/2026
Date 11.02.2026

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
64	26255110	Digital Ultrasonic Double Rail Tester with 9 Probe	4 Nos	12-Mar-26
65	04253133	Endless 'V' belt for Railway coaches size C-122	39591 Nos	12-Mar-26
66	04252974	Wheel Profiling inserts of Kennametal	5631 Nos	11-Mar-26
67	22253224A	3D adjustable 360 degree rotational modified Driver Seat	722 Nos	09-Mar-26
68	06261064B	Blind Socket Assembly	1089 Nos	07-Mar-26

CORRIGENDUM

Please read the due date as "23.02.2026" for the tender notice no S-67-2025 dated: 13.11.2025 at Sr. No. 705

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and wr.indianrailways.gov.in

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly • Follow us on: x.com/WesternRly 1117

GOVERNEMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE oF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
Phone : 0680-2281582, e-mail : ccescbam@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]
Bid identification No.CCE, S.C (R&B)-BAM-15/25-26
34001/83/2526 No-431// Dtd.12.02.2026

1) The Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of Building work as detailed in the table below,
2) Nature of work : Building Work
3) No. of work : 01 No
4) Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/- online
5) Class of Contractor : "B" Class / "A" Class
6) Availability of Bid document in the website : 18.02.2026 10.00 AM to 26.02.2426 5.30 PM
7) Date of Opening of Bid : 27.02.2026 at 11A.M
8) The Bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https:tendersodisha.gov.in.
9) Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only".

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer,
Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur

OIPR-34001/34103/1/25-26/0026

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Hunsur Wildlife Sub-Division, Hunsur
e-mail–acfhunsurwlsd2020@gmail.com
Ph: 08222-252041
No:ACF/HWLS/RB/Tender/CR-13/2025-26 Dated: 05.02.2026

Tender Notification

E-Tenders for the works in Hunsur and Veeranahosahally Wildlife Range of Hunsur Wildlife Sub-Division for the year 2025-26 are invited through e-procurement portal (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka from competent firms for the following works subjected to KW-3/ KW-4 terms and conditions.

Description of Work	Quantity	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)
Erection of railway barricade work including procurement of used rails	1.736 Km (2 Units)	272.633

(*Subject to release of funds from Govt.)

▸Last date of receipt of tender through e-portal: 04.03.2026 upto 16:00 hrs ▸ If no contractors participate on 04.03.2026; re-tender will held on 12/03/2026 upto 16:00 hrs. ▸ No further notification will be published regarding Re-Tender. ▸ For more information contact the under signed office on working hours. Phone: 08222-252041

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests
DIPR/DDMYS/1667/KSMCA/943/2025-26

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
AUCTION PROGRAMME
NOTICE No : 03 / 2026

e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

Sl No	e-Auction conducted by	Date of auction for the month of for March 2026			
1	GSD/PER	05/03/26	12/03/26	19.03.26	26.03.26
2	CSSD/GOC	04.03.26	11/03/26	18.03.26	25.03.26
3	SSD/PTJ	03.03.26	10.03.26	17.03.26	24.03.26
4	MAS	04.03.26	11.03.26	18.03.26	25.03.26
5	SA	-	10.03.26	17.03.26	24.03.26
6	TVC	06.03.26	13.03.26	23.03.26	30.03.26
7	PGT	05.03.26	12.03.26	19.03.26	26.03.26
8	TPJ	05.03.26	12.03.26	20.03.26	27.03.26
9	MDU	09.03.26	16.03.26	23.03.26	30.03.26

Material for auction The details of item to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue in www.ireps.gov.in Website

Total no. of auction for March-2026-35

For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site **http://www.ireps.gov.in->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.**

Principal Chief Materials Manager

QuoteExpress **THE WAY TO GET STARTED IS TO QUIT TALKING AND BEGIN DOING** › WALT DISNEY

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Authorised Officer's Details:	Address of the Branch :
Name: Sri. Nagaraja V **Email Id: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in** **Mobile No: 9448441455**	**STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (05173)** **# 11/90, 3rd Floor, Opp. Trust well Hospital, J C Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Ph : 080-2594 3678, 2594 3663,** **Email Id : sbi.05173@sbi.co.in**

APPENDIX IV-A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLES PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable asset under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s), that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **18.03.2026** for recovery of **Rs. 99,56,540/-** (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred and Forty only) as on 11.02.2026 and further interest at contractual rate from 12.02.2026 plus with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc which is due to State Bank of India, SARB, Bengaluru from **Sri.Mahesh N S/o. Sri.Narayana Swamy Rangappa (Borrower).**

The reserve price, earnest money deposit and bid increment amount and last date for receipt of EMD will be as under: -

Reserve Price (Below which the properties will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid increment Amount	Date & Time for e-Auction of Property	Last Date for submission of EMD along with KYC documents
Rs. 87,00,000/-	Rs. 8,70,000/-	Rs. 50,000/-	18.03.2026, 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.	18.03.2026 Up to 1.00 p.m.

Tender No : SBI/SARB/NV/2025-26/
Title deed holder : Sri.Mahesh N S/o. Sri.Narayana Swamy Rangappa
Description of the Immovable Property : SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY (Entire Property) : Item No. 1 : All that piece and parcel of immovable residentially converted Land bearing Sy.No.13/1, measuring 1 Acre 20 Guntas converted for Non-Agricultural residential purpose vide conversion certificate/Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN.(S)SR(KEN)14/2015-16, dated 22.03.2016 issued by District commissioner, Bangalore District situated at Pattanagere Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and **bounded on : East by :** Portion of land bearing Sy.No.13/1, **West by :** Land bearing Sy.No.15, **North by :** Portion of land bearing Sy.No.13/1 and **South by :** Land bearing Sy.No.12/1A & Road.

Item No. 2 : All that piece and parcel of immovable residentially converted Land bearing Sy.No.12/1A, measuring 10 ½ Guntas converted for Non-Agricultural residential purpose vide conversion certificate/Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN.(S)SR(KEN) 57/2012-13 issued by District commissioner, Bangalore District situated at Pattanagere Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and **bounded on : East by :** Portion of land bearing Sy.No.12/1A, **West by :** Road & Mylasandra Village boundary, **North by :** Land bearing Sy.No.13/1 and **South by :** Mylasandra Village boundary.

Item No.1 & 2 having composite BBMP Khatha No.3741/S.No.13/1/12/1A

Schedule "B" Property (Property herein conveyed) : All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential apartment/flat bearing No.014, Ground Floor, in "B" Block, in the multi storied building known as "ELEGANT EXQUISITE" with super built up area of 1267 Sq.ft & 912.24 Sq.ft of Carpet Area & 618.4227 Sq.ft of undivided share, right title and interest in Schedule "A" Property along with one covered car parking area bearing No.014 in Block "B", structured with RCC Roof, Walls with Cement Block, vitrified flooring main door teak wood, other door frames with Sal wood with flush shutters, Aluminum windows with safety M.S grills, bore well water, electricity and sewerage amenities together with common areas such passages, lobbies, lifts, staircase and other areas of common use etc., and the flat held in the name of "Sri. Mahesh N" and the flat is **bounded on : East by :** Flat No. 015, **West by :** Flat No. 013, **North by :** Open to Sky and **South by :** Corridor.

Sale Deed dated 07.03.2023 is registered in favour of **Sri.Mahesh. N** in the office of Senior Sub- Registrar, Jayanagar (Rajarajeshwarinagar), Bangalore in Book No.1 under Document No.RRN-1-10928-2022-23 and C.D. No.RRND1279 dated 07.03.2023

To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://baanknet.com**

Date and Time during which inspection of the immovable secured assets to be sold and intending bidders should satisfy themselves about the assets and their specification. On or before **17.03.2026, between 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.** with prior appointment. Contact person with mobile number **Sri. Anjan Kumar. D, Cell No. 8660590654.**

Date: 12.02.2026
Place: Bangalore.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India, SARB, Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public at large that my Client Sri.Vijay Kumar S.H S/o Hucharappa, residing at No.190, Nelamangala Town, Dadapeer Layout, Near Euro Kids School, Bangalore Rural District, has lost the original document registered at Book 1, Document No.NMG-1-09617/2011-12 dated: 08-03-2012 at Sub Registrar Nelamangala Executed by in favour of in respect of land bearing Old Sy.No.50, New Sy.No.50/2 measuring 1 acre 21 Guntas situated at Koothaghatta Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk. It is statedthat the aforesaid sale deed have been lost when my client shifting his residence. In this regard my client Sri.Vijayakumar.S.H S/o S.Hucherappa has lodged a complaint before Nelamangala Town police Station on 12-02-2026 Police have issued GSC reference number GSC No.28/2026. Therefore, it is hereby notified that any person/persons who may be in possession of the above mentioned original sale Deed may return the same to my client's address mentioned above or to my address mentioned below.

N.P.R. Raghunatha Advocate,
1st Floor, "Parshwa Lakshmi"
Opp.Ambedkar Bhavan, B.H.Road,
Nelamangala Town.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby put to notice that my client **Mrs.SAHEEN TAJ** C/o Syed Faraz.S, Aged about 54 Years, Residing at No.78, 6th Cross, Allamaprabhu Road, Bendre Nagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070, has intends to purchase the schedule property from its owner Mr. Syed Sameer.W, S/o Mr.Syed Wajeed, aged about 28 years, residing at No. 548/B, Yalachenahalli, Fayazabad Layout, Kanakanagara, Bengaluru-560078 vide Registered Sale Deed dated 01/12/2023 bearing Registration No. BSG-1-08312-2023-24, Book No.1, dated 01/12/2023, registered in the office of Senior Sub-registrar, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru.

Any person/firm/institution/company having any manner of claim or right and interest in respect of the schedule property are hereby require to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **Seven (7) days** from the date of Publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents failing which the transaction shall be complete without reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of **Property bearing Vacant Site No.4085, BBMP Khata No.967/4085, Situated at Kumaraswamy Layout,** 2nd Stage, Bengaluru, Word No.185 - Yelachenahalli of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 20 Feet, Total measuring 600/- Square feet (55.74 sq. mets) and bounded on:- **East by :** Road,, **West by :** Drain, **North by :** Site No.4084, **South by :** Site No.4086.

ULLAS.M. Advocate,
No.1215, Ground Floor,1st Block, 2nd Stage, Jnanabharathi Layout, Valgerahlli, Bengaluru-560059. Mob.8970220019.

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

NAGARBHAVI BRANCH 13521
No. 19/6, Ring Road, Papareddy Palya, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560072.

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for 30 days Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "whatever there in" on **27.03.2026, 12.00 noon to 5.00 p.m.** for recovery of **Rs. 40,79,264.37**/- (Rupees Fourty Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty Four and Thirty Seven Paisa only) as on 11.02.2026 and interest till date of realization and all other expenses including legal are also to be considered due to the Secured Creditor from Borrower : **1) Smt. B. Sumathi B** No. 298, EWS 5th A Main, Kengeri Satellite Town, Near SJR School, Bengaluru, Bangalore South - 560060.**2) Mr. Rakesh B.** S/o D. Bangar, No. 298, EWS 5th A Main, Kengeri Satellite Town, Near SJR School, Bengaluru, Bangalore South - 560060.

The reserve Price will be **Rs. 66,50,000/-** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 6,65,000/- (10% of Reserve Price)**

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : Schedule 'A' : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing House No. 298, EWS, situated at 2nd stage Kengeri Satellite Town, Banglore, Measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 18 feet and **bounded on the : East by :** road, **West by :** Conservancy, **North by :** House No. 297, **South by :** House No. 299.

For queries contact Number : **8291220220 & email ID support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com**

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit Buyer Manual link provided in the home page of **https://baanknet.com**

For auction related queries e-mail to ubin0813524@unionbankofindia.bank.in or contact 9137913521

Date : 11.02.2026
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

REGIONAL OFFICE WEST
Chitrapur Mutt Complex,
Malleswaram 15th Cross,
Bangalore-560055.

(Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property)

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) &9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive/physical** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **, Canara Bank, Regional Office, Regional Office West, Bengaluru (Secured Creditor),** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is"** on **17.03.2026, 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM** for recovery of below mentioned amount.

E-AUCTION DATE :17.03.2026

Borrower and Mortgagor: (1) M/s. GSR Health Sciences, Prop- Mr.G Sudershan Reddy, Sri Sai Nivasam, No.1796, Groundfloor, 21st Cross, 5th Main, C Block Sahakarnagar, Bengaluru-560092. **(2) Mr.G Sudershan Reddy (Proprietor) S/o Late Mr. Gopal Reddy,** Sri Sai Nivas, No.1796, 21st Cross, 5th Main, C Block, Sahakarnagar Bengaluru-560092. **Also at:** No.1796, 9th Cross, 4th Main, C Block, Sahakarnagar, Bengaluru-560092. **Also at:** Flat No.304, 3rd Floor, "Silver Castle" Apartment, Municipal No 1 (new No 1/7), Kodihalli Village, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru-560017.

Total liabilities : Rs.1,52,33,346.63 /-(Rupees One Crore Fifty Two Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Six and Sixty Three Paise Only) **as on 12-02-2026 and interest and other charges thereon from 13-02-2026**

Reserve Price : Rs.58,41,000/- **EMD : Rs. 5,84,100/-**

Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before: **16.03.2026 - 4.00 p.m.**

Details of Property/ies:

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing New Municipal No 1, Old Nos 1,2,3 and 4, Ward No 74, situated at Kodihalli, Jeevanbhimanagara, Bangalore measuring East to West about 63.25 feet and North to South about 67.75 feet and bounded on the East by : Private property, West by : Road, North by : Private Property, South by : Private Property.

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of a two bedroom apartment bearing Flat No 304 on the third floor presently bearing New Municipal No 1/7, BBMP PID No 74-81-1/7 having a Super built up area of 960 Square feet in the building known as "SILVER CASTLE" being constructed on the SCHEDULE A Property together with undivided share of 428 Square feet of land in the said property with all modern civic amenities along with a covered car parking space and bounded on the: East by : Entrance, West by : Open to Sky, North by : Lift and Flat No 301, South by : Flat No 303.

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank, Regional Office West, e-mail id roblrwrec@canarabank.com & cb2454@canarabank.com (Mob No 9063837573/9669142719/7411509379 **OR the service provider BAANKNET https://Baanknet.com/ (M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd) (Contact No 7046612345/6354910172/ 8291220220/9892219848/ 8160205051,** .E-mail: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com./ support.ebkray@procure247.com). during office hours on any working day

Date : 14.02.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

MAHAVITARAN
Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd.

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited

Tender No. CE(DIST.)/M-I/2025-26/T-01 & T-02

Tenders are invited by **e-tendering method** from eligible bidders for the work of reorientation of 33 kV lines on Monopole Tower (T-01) & Installation/Replacement of A.B. Switches (T-02) under Baramati, Kalyan and Pune Zone on Full Turnkey basis. The Scope of Work includes Supply, Transport, Construction, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of work 33 kV lines and other allied works under R&M Scheme as defined in the Bid Documents.
(Tender Nos. CE(DIST.)/M-I/2025-26/T-01 & T-02).

Name of Zone	Name of Circle	Name of Division	Name of Scheme	Tender No.	Tender Cost in Lakhs.	Tender Fee including 18% GST (Rs.)			EMD (0.5% of tender cost) in Lakhs
						Tender Fee (Rs.)	18% GST (Rs.)	Total tender Fee (Rs.)	
Kalyan & Pune	Vasai & Pune Rural	Vasai, Rajgurunagar	O&M	**T-01**	2293.73	25000.00	4500.00	29500.00	11. 47
Baramati, Kalyan & Pune	Baramati, Vasai, Ganeshkhind, Pune rural	Kedgaon, Bhosari, Rajgurunagar, & Vasai	O&M	**T-02**	258.37	10000.00	1180.00	11180.00	1.29

Date of availability of Bid Documents on MSEDCL E- tendering Website
https://etender.mahadiscom.in/eatApp/ Last Date & Time for Purchase of Bid: 27.02.2026 upto 14:00 Hrs.
Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid: 02.03.2026 upto 14:00 Hrs.
Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: 02.03.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.
For further details of Invitation for Bids & Bid Documents, please visit MSEDCL website http://works.mahadiscom.in/eTender/etender.

Chief Engineer (Dist.)
MSEDCL, Corporate Office, Mumbai
Contact no. 0251-2328283 Extn.-102
E-mail ID. – cedist.msedcl@gmail.com

HO P.R. No. 45/26 Dt.13.02.2026

TIME TO SHAKE OFF STAND-OFF BLUES

The defending champs are pulling at all stops to tick every box before important Pak clash; big-hitters like Dube, Pandya & Kishan hold key in testing conditions

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Colombo

AT India's practice session under lights on Saturday night, it was instructive that their batters spent significant time facing a local left-arm seamer, some spin from Varun Chakravarthy as well as Suryakumar Yadav's impromptu Usman Tariq impersonation.

In both nets, India's left-handed heavy batting unit took turns to play spin, do some range hitting against pacers but also try to flick the ball off the hips. Outside the nets, Tilak Verma had an extended session dedicated just for playing sweep shots (and, yes, both Abhishek Sharma and Washington Sundar were present). While the Indian captain said the wicket looks very good, the strip in Sri Lanka has generally tended to favour artisans over artists. Hitting through the line is difficult and the bounce may not be true. Batters who do possess the power game can get some joy but they need to earn that right. That essentially means grinding before launching. And throw in the possibility of a shower or two — there was some rain just when India started training session in the evening — and this will be a challenge for most batters.

More so for a team who are yet to hit top gear. In the two games thus far, they have displayed vulnerabilities that not many thought existed. Against the US in the opener, they lost a clutch of wickets up front. When Namibia came calling, their spinners ran riot in the middle phase. While they have blamed the tracks so far for their below par batting performances, you cannot afford to be one dimensional in your set-up, especially if the conditions have changed.

India have seemingly come up with some plans of their own to counter Pakistan's spin-heavy bowling department, but Yadav also called on his batters to be brave. "I feel we had a little scratchy start, yes," the captain said. "You can't run away from the fact that it was not a proper T20 wicket. But... you can't actually brush everything under the carpet. "There is no excuse. Because everyone has played a lot of cricket. So batters, I think, should be brave in taking their own calls. Have their own plans on batting on a difficult, not a difficult wicket but a tricky T20 wicket. But in the second game, we were really good (against Namibia). We came back very strong. Had a good power play. But then still we had a little bit of a slump in between. But then we covered it well (in the end)".

In the bilateral tournaments at home over the last year, the team have played in a lot of true wickets where hitting through the line was possible from ball one. In some of the games at the World Cup, though, that has not been possible. There has been some grip available for spinners and seamers have had some joy and dew has stayed away from some games. All of that has led to some frustration. "Two back-to-back pitches haven't been batting-friendly," Hardik Pandya said after his player of the match performance against Namibia. "You just adapt and let your skill set work. We would like a little more flatter wickets." Ishan Kishan spoke on similar lines in the press conference a few minutes later. "I feel it was a bit different from what we expected," the keeper-batter said.

That's obviously a problem because India have transformed their T20 fortunes on the back of their boundary-hitting madness over the last few seasons. Sure, they have eight virtually unhittable overs in the form of Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy but what has set them apart in this format is that their batters have either consistently broke open the game in the powerplay while chasing or set imposing 200+ totals, thus putting scoreboard pressure on sides chasing. It's how they have built up a barely believable ratio of over six wins per loss since 2024 in a format as fickle as this.

Among the over 100 countries to have played T20Is in this time period, India are also the only side to average over 150 runs per 100 balls. It's why their batters have understandably turned up their noses in conditions they haven't readily recognised. They have generally turned up and bossed the bowlers as they have decided to take the conditions out of the equation.

On Sunday, their batters face a true test. The unstoppable force meets an immovable object. The Premadasa square.

India players during a training session ahead of the Pakistan clash at the R Premadasa Stadium, Colombo on Saturday | ICC

Pakistan's bevy of spinners are primed and waiting

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Colombo

FIFTY-FOUR spinners have bowled in 25 innings or more in the last 12 months (only T20s). Barring an injury, six of them will feature play in Sunday's match. Abrar Ahmed. Usman Tariq. Saim Ayub. Mohammad Nawaz. Varun Chakravarthy. Axar Patel. A seventh, Kuldeep Yadav, may get a call up if the Indian team management, who have complained about the nature of pitches given to them at the World Cup, decide to stop worrying about the conditions given to them.

It's why this Group A clash will likely be decided by the slower bowlers. That itself is a significant departure from a usual India vs Pakistan matchup. These matches have either been decided by Indian batters or Pakistan's pacers. At the R Premadasa Stadium on Sunday, this contest will genuinely be between the likes of Chakravarthy and Tariq, the two mystery spinners.

The presence of Tariq, Pakistan's great disruptor, has already caused some consternation. When the 28-year-old made his international debut, the Asia Cup was already over so this is the first time Indian viewers will watch him with genuine interest. If they find his action 'weird', a word he used to describe his action, it's because it is.

But he has also been cleared. Twice. By the International Cricket Council (ICC). At the pre-match press conference, Pakistan captain, Salman Agha, was asked about Tariq's action not once but multiple times. Each time, Agha said: "I just know that he (Tariq) doesn't care about these things. He pauses before his deliveries — something R Ashwin used to do a lot — but Tariq does this before every delivery. He also bowls round arm and tries to generate enough angles that would send the standard mathematics textbook running for cover (remember Kedar Jadhav's round and side arm action, it's bit like that). Because of the lower release points, he can be very hard to hit.

How did he become a spinner? In an interview he gave to Desert Vipers ahead of this year's ILT20 final, he spoke about bowling spin in one game because he had picked up an injury pre-match while playing tennis ball cricket. Because he picked up a couple of wickets, he became a spinner.

On the pause itself, 'it's a natural pause', he said. In the interview (the in-house video has been shared with this daily), he said he didn't even notice the 'pause' before one of his coaches mentioned it to him. "I learned my bowling with this action," he said. "It's all part of my natural process. And I have made it finer with a lot of practice." The action is unique because he has 'two elbows'. "It makes my hand really hard to stretch, so that's what's confusing the spectators. In essence, his arm bends naturally thanks to a biological gift. One person who knows Usman well back in Pakistan says teams have done themselves an injustice by focusing too much on his action. The other frontline spinner they have is Ahmed, no stranger to Indians. At the Champions Trophy's Ahmed's send off after dismissing Shubman Gill with a beauty became a meme. But the leggie has continued to make a name for himself post that game. Ahmed used to try and bowl Hollywood balls, he used to lose his radar every now and then.

Not anymore. Ahmed, Tariq and Co. will be waiting.

WHAT TO EXPECT

AS INDIA AND PAKISTAN GO UP AGAINST EACH OTHER IN COLOMBO, A LOOK AT KEY TALKING POINTS...

Eyes on Abhishek

India opener Abhishek Sharma missed the Namibia clash but seem to be in good spirits as he trained on Saturday. India captain Suryakumar Yadav also confirmed his fitness and participation in the match.

Farhan v. Bumrah

Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy are India's trump cards, but Sahibzada Farhan seems to have edge over the former. In 3 innings, Farhan has hit Bumrah for 51 runs at a SR of 150 and is yet to get out to him.

SKY apes Tariq's action

At India's practice session on Saturday evening, the Indian captain decided he would give his colleagues a first-hand — a second-hand look, really — at what it's like facing Usman Tariq's unique deliveries.

ICC top brass expected

ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta came to the venue on Saturday. The match is likely to be attended by ICC chair Jay Shah. They are likely to meet officials from the BCCI, PCB as well as Bangladesh Cricket Board chief, Aminul Islam.

India vs Pakistan
@ Colombo | 7 PM

Other fixtures

Nepal vs West Indies
@ Mumbai | 11 AM

USA vs Namibia
@ Chennai | 3 PM

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS AND JIOHOTSTAR

BANTON POWERS ENGLAND TO VICTORY

ENG VS SCO

KOLKATA: Tom Banton's unbeaten 63 led England to a five-wicket victory over Scotland in Kolkata on Saturday that kept Harry Brook's side on course for the Super Eights. Victory in their final Group C match against Italy on Monday at the same Eden Gardens stadium will see England safely into the next round. After bowling Scotland out for 152, England racked up 155-5 in 18.2 overs. **BRIEF SCORES:** Scotland 152 in 19.4 ovs (Berrington 49; Rashid 3/36) **lost to** England 155/5 in 18.2 ovs (Banton 63 n.o, Bethell 32).

TUCKER STARS AS IRELAND CRUSH OMAN

IRE VS OMA

COLOMBO: Ireland's stand-in-captain Lorcan Tucker scored an unbeaten 94 as they hammered Oman by 96 runs in Group B. It propelled Ireland to the tournament's highest score of 235-5, the second biggest total in the history of the men's T20 World Cup. Oman were never remotely in the chase as they bundled out for 139. **BRIEF SCORES:** Ireland 235/5 in 20 ovs (Tucker 94, Delany 56; Shakeel 3/33) **bt** Oman 139 in 18 ovs (Aamir 50, Hammad 46; Little 3/16).

Markram, Jansen help SA beat NZ

ENS @ Chennai

Aiden Markram (R) celebrates his fifty against New Zealand on Saturday | PTI

CAPTAIN Aiden Markram slammed 44-ball 86 while pacer Marco Jansen claimed four wickets (4/40) as South Africa posted a seven-wicket victory over New Zealand in Ahmedabad.Chasing 176, South Africa reached the target with 17 balls to spare. Markram hit four sixes and eight fours to guide his team home.

Earlier, New Zealand rode on a counter-attacking 74-run stand between middle-order batters Mark Chapman (48) and Daryl Mitchell (32) to post 175 for seven. The Black Caps surged to 33 before Jansen sent back Tim Seifert. Jansen then tilted the balance by dismissing Rachin Ravindra (13).

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealnd 175/7 in 20 ovs (Chapman 48, Mitchell 32; Jansen 4/40) **lost to** South Africa 178/3 in 17.1 ovs (Markram 86 n.o, Miller 24 n.o; Rachin 1/9).

UPBEAT USA TAKE ON BELEAGUERED NAMIBIA

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

USA VS NAM

BUOYED by the big, 93-run win against Netherlands, the United States of America will look to carry forward the momentum when they take on Namibia in another Group A clash of the T20 World Cup at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here on Sunday afternoon.USA's chances of entering the top-two for the Super Eights remain slim. They have to beat Namibia on Sunday, and hope that the top-two teams, India and Pakistan to faulter, which looks highly unlikely. Pubudu Dassanayake, coach of USA remains confident of a good show by his boys against Namibia. "Yeah, I think we are ahead (of Namibia). We had a great practice session under lights (before Netherlands match). And then on Friday, we got used to the conditions. So overall, I think we are ahead of Namibia, especially looking at the conditions," Dassanayake said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

India's road to T20 WC begins

GOMESH S @ Chennai

THREE T20Is against Australia. Five more versus South Africa and another three against England in England. That is how India's road to the Women's T20 World Cup looks at this point. And it kickstarts in Sydney on Sunday with Harmanpreet Kaur and Co taking on Australia under their new skipper Sophie Molineux.

From a preparational point of view, India could not have asked for better fixtures or opponents.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Important to follow our process: Coach Goud

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

EIGHT-TIME winners Karnataka will be hoping for a strong start in their Ranji Trophy semifinal tie against Uttarakhand in Lucknow on Sunday.

The last time Karnataka entered the semifinal was in 2023, where they lost to eventual winners Saurashtra at home in Bengaluru. However, Karnataka, in the following seasons, had been a shadow of their former self. But this season has been full of promise. Batting remains Karnataka's biggest strength. Devdutt Padikkal is in the form of his life. KL Rahul is entering the tie on the back of a century (131) in the team's quarterfinal win over Mumbai. Ravichandran Smaran is amongst runs and so is Mayank Agarwal and Karun Nair. And yet, Karnataka head coach Yere Goud is expecting a tough test. "It is important for us, (that) we do our process right and concentrate on how we want to execute our game plans," he told this daily.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Sathiyan roars back, enters Q/F

ENS @ Chennai

FOURTH seeds Harmeet Desai and Yashaswini Ghorpade sealed their mixed doubles final berth comfortably while Sathiyan G registered a hard-fought win to reach his first ever men's singles quarterfinals of the WTT Star Contender Chennai 2026 at the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University on Saturday.

Desai and Ghorpade were cruising in the all-Indian mixed doubles semifinal, beating wild card Payas Jain and Syndrela Das 3-0 (11-9, 11-6, 11-9).

EXPRESS READ

Neto hat-trick powers Chelsea into FA Cup Rd 5

LONDON: Pedro Neto scored a hat trick, including directly from a corner kick, as Chelsea beat Hull City 4-0 in the fourth round of the FA Cup on Friday. Also, Wrexham reached the fifth round for the first time in 29 years after beating Ipswich 1-0 in an all-Championship matchup. Premier league heavyweights Manchester City beat Salford City 2-0 at home, while Burnley lost 1-2 against Mansfield Town.

Pramod wins record sixth world title

MANAMA: India's Pramod Bhagat captured the men's SL3 gold medal with a commanding straight-game win (21-12, 21-18) over Muhammad Al Imran of Indonesia at the BWF Para World Championships here. This was Bhagat's 4th consecutive singles gold at the meet.

Poonacha-Isaro pair secure doubles' crown

CHENNAI: Top seeds Niki Poonacha of India and Pruchya Isaro of Thailand won the doubles title at the Chennai ATP Challenger event on Saturday. The Indo-Thai pair recovered from an early jolt against Jay Clarke and Mukund Sasikumar to win 6-4, 6-4.

ISL opener: MB win, Goa draw

ENS @ Chennai

DEJAN Drazic's 84th minute spot-kick rescued Goa from defeat in Goa against newly-promoted side Inter Kashi in the Indian Super League (ISL) on Saturday. Prasanth Karuthadathkuni opened the scoring for the visitors. Earlier, goals from Tom Aldred and Jamie Maclaren ensured defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giants (MBSG) beat Kerala Blasters 2-0 in Kolkata.

SUNDAY'S FIXTURES: Jamshedpur FC vs Mohammedan SC (5.00 pm), Bengaluru FC vs SC Delhi (7.30 pm).

NEW VS OLD

'PRICING' the change in consumption pattern

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

ON February 12, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced the January retail inflation number — for the first time under the new 2024 base-year series. The new series shows January inflation at 2.75%, compared with 1.33% in December under the old series. The launch of the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series, with a revised base year of 2024, is a long-overdue exercise to modernise India's retail inflation measurement framework. The aim is to correctly reflect the structural shifts in the Indian economy, including urbanisation, digitalisation, and evolving consumption behaviour.

The rationale for revision

Internationally, the IMF recommends updating CPI weights and baskets at least every five years to ensure they remain representative. India's previous series, based on 2011–12 data, had become increasingly detached from contemporary realities. The new 2024 series is anchored in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023–24, which captures how households across rural and urban India actually spend their money today.

To ensure a robust statistical foundation, MoSPI aligned the weight reference period (2023–24) closely with the price reference period (January to December 2024). This alignment minimises base-year bias and ensures that the prices used to calculate the index are synchronised with current consumption patterns.

Major changes

Adoption of a global classification system: One of the key changes is the full adoption of the United Nations' Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) 2018 framework. This replaces the older system of six broad groups with a more granular hierarchy consisting of 12 divisions, 43 groups, 92 classes, and 162 sub-classes. COICOP is a framework for grouping household consumption expenditures on goods and services into homogeneous categories based on the particular purpose those goods and services are considered to fulfil.

"This shift not only allows for deeper analytical insights but also ensures that India's inflation data is globally comparable," says Dr Saurabh Garg, Secretary, MoSPI. While maintaining this international structure, an Expert Group formed by MoSPI introduced minor adaptations, such as renaming 37 subclasses and nine classes to better reflect Indian terminologies and dietary traditions — for instance, separating milk and eggs, which are combined in the standard COICOP.

A new consumption basket: The basket of goods and services has been substantially overhauled to capture a wider array of modern spending. At the all-India level, the number of weighted items has increased from 299 to 358. The number of goods has risen from 259 to 308, while services have increased from 40 to 50, reflecting the growing importance of the services sector in household budgets. The new basket reflects current consumption patterns by removing obsolete items and including new ones.

For example, obsolete items such as VCR/VCD players, radios, and cassette tapes have been removed. In their place, the new series includes digital services such as online media streaming (OTT) and data-heavy telephone plans.

New-age items such as pen drives, external hard disks, and exercise equipment have also been included.

The services basket has been expanded as well. Household services now include attendants and babysitters. Rural house rent has been included for the first time, making the housing index more representative of the entire country.

Shift in weights: The results of HCES 2023-24 confirm a long-term trend in developing economies — as incomes rise, the proportion of expenditure on food declines. Consequently, the weight of Food and Beverages in the CPI basket has dropped from 45.86% in the 2012 series to 36.75% in the 2024 series. Weights for categories such as miscellaneous goods and services, health, and transport have risen. While food remains the largest single component, headline inflation will now be slightly less sensitive to food price shocks than before.

The weight of housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels has increased from 16.89 to 17.67; transport has risen from 6.39 to 8.80; and health has edged up from 5.9 to 6.1. The weight of education services has declined from 3.51 to 3.33. A MoSPI note explains this change.

Changes in the weight of different categories reflect not only evolving consumption patterns but also reclassification under the new series. For example, under COICOP 2018, books and stationery are classified separately from education services. When education services are combined with books and stationery, the effective education share in CPI 2024 is 4.0%, compared with 4.46% in CPI 2012.

Similarly, if the CPI 2012 classification system were followed, the share of Food and Beverages would have declined from 45.86% to 40.10%. Under the CPI 2024 classification structure, the share of Food and Beverages — currently 36.75% in the 2024 series — would have been around 42.62% in the 2012 series.

A note by research firm QuantEco points out that under the 2024 CPI series, personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods & services has been redefined as a broader category, with its weight rising to 5.0% from 3.9% under the previous series. "Despite the higher weight, inflation in this category moderated sharply to 19.0% in Jan-26, compared with 28.0% in Dec-25 (as per the old series). The change likely reflects, among other factors, a revision in the methodology of price collection for gold and silver jewellery products under the new series," noted QuantEco.

Methodological changes

The 2024 series introduces methodological changes aimed at improving accuracy and reducing volatility. Instead of the Long Jevons method (which compared current prices back to the distant 2012 base), the new series uses a short-term, chain-based approach. It measures price changes month-on-month and links them over time. This approach handles missing items and product replacements (such as new smartphone models) more smoothly, without requiring complex retrospective quality adjustments.

To reduce field errors for items with static or regulated prices, MoSPI has shifted to centralised data collection for certain categories. For fuel, petrol, diesel, LPG, CNG, and PNG prices are now sourced directly from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), covering nearly 90,000 retail outlets.

For regulated services like railways and postal services, rail fares, postal charges, and telecommunications tariffs are sourced directly from the relevant ministries and administrative bodies. For e-commerce, prices in 12 major towns (with populations above 25 lakh) now incorporate online markets to track e-commerce price volatility, while for OTT platforms, prices for services like Amazon Prime Video, Netflix, Jio Hotstar, SonyLiv, YouTube Premium, and Zee5 are collected online directly from the service providers' websites.

The treatment of free items has also been clarified. In line with international standards, the Expert Group decided not to include items distributed free of cost in the CPI, as the index measures prices actually paid by households. If an item's price becomes zero due to a government subsidy, it is excluded from the basket. The physical infrastructure of price collection has been strengthened to widen coverage across rural and urban markets. Rural market coverage has increased from 1,181 to 1,465 villages, while urban market coverage has expanded from 1,114 to 1,407 markets across 434 towns.

Data collection has transitioned from pen-and-paper methods to tablet-based Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), enabling real-time validation, geo-spatial tracking of shops, and faster data processing.

Transparency and dissemination

While MoSPI will not publish an official "core inflation" figure — citing the lack of a globally standardised definition — it will release more granular data than before. For the first time, item-level indices and inflation rates will be provided for every state and Union Territory. Separate rural, urban, and combined breakdowns will be available at the item level.

To maintain continuity, a linking factor has been provided for the All-India General Index, allowing users to connect the old and new series for long-term trend analysis. The linking factor is calculated to connect the two series over a common overlapping period. The overlapping period here is 2025, during which both CPI 2012 and CPI 2024 indices are available.

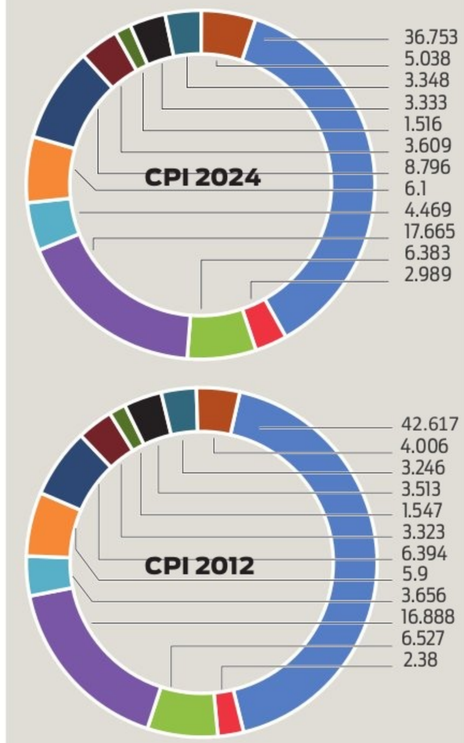
Experts' take

ICRA economist Aditi Nayar says that the expected uptick (under the old series) in CPI inflation in FY2027 relative to FY2026 was largely anticipated to be driven by the Food & Beverages segment. However, with a lower weight for Food & Beverages in the new series, the expected base-effect-led uptick in the headline print in FY2027 is likely to be tempered.

According to Gaura Sen Gupta, Chief Economist, IDFC First Bank Economic Research, the weight of core items in the new base-year series has increased to 51% from 44.9% in the old base-year series, while the weight of food and beverages has declined to 40.1% from 45.9%. "The combination of a higher weight for core inflation and more subdued core inflation momentum will result in headline CPI inflation being lower compared to the old base-year series," she says.

Sen Gupta also noted that instead of directly incorporating gold and silver prices, the new series reflects prices of jewellery made from these metals. "This will capture inflation better at the consumer level. As a result, personal care inflation, which captures gold and silver, recorded a more moderate inflation rate of 19% YoY under the new base year, compared with 28% under the old base year in December," she said.

Though experts caution against reading too much into the new inflation numbers based on a single data release, they are relatively assured that the overhauled basket will reduce volatility going forward — potentially nudging the RBI to hold interest rates steady for longer.



LAYERED PROCESS TO REMOVE LOK SABHA SPEAKER FROM OFFICE

MANISH KUMAR @ Chennai

THE recent news of the Opposition moving a notice for the removal of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has brought a rare constitutional procedure into the spotlight. While often colloquially termed an "impeachment", the Constitution of India technically reserves that term for the President; for the Speaker, however, the process is defined as "removal by a resolution".

In India's Parliamentary framework, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha holds a position of immense constitutional dignity and independence. To ensure that the Speaker can function as the "conscience of the House" without fear of political reprisal, the Constitution provides a rigorous mechanism for their removal. Prof D D Basu in *Introduction to the Constitution of India* says since the Speaker is the "symbol of the House's liberty" and "the representative of the dignity of the House", he does not hold office at the "pleasure of the President" (unlike the Attorney General or Governors). Instead, the Speaker's tenure is secured by the House itself. In other words, he holds office at the pleasure of the Lok Sabha.

Vacation and removal

Article 94 provides three ways a Speaker can vacate their office: (a) If they cease to be a member of the Lok Sabha, (b) by resigning in writing to Deputy Speaker, (c) By being removed from his office by a resolution of the House passed by a majority of all the then members of the House (Article 94(c)).

Article 96: Rights during the Removal Process

This article ensures fairness by outlining the Speaker's status while a removal resolution is being debated by the Lok Sabha. It says the Speaker cannot preside over the House during such a session, though they retain all other rights of a Member of Parliament.

Moving the resolution

Rules 200–203 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and Article 94-96 deal with the procedure to initiate the removal of the Speaker. To maintain the independence of the office of Speaker, the founding fathers ensured that the process cannot be triggered based on a whim.

A written notice of intention to move a resolution for Speaker's removal must be submitted to the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha, signed by at least two members. Under Article 94, no such resolution can be moved unless at least 14 days' notice has been given. This period is intended to allow the Speaker to prepare a defence against the allegations and for the House to consider the gravity of removing its presiding officer.

50-member rule

After the 14-day notice expires, the motion is listed in the List of Business of the Lok Sabha. The member who gave notice must seek the "leave of the House" to move the resolution. The person presiding (not the Speaker) asks those in favour of the motion to rise in their places. The motion is then admitted for discussion only if at least 50 members stand in support. If fewer than 50 members rise in support, the Speaker informs the member that they do not have the leave of the House, and the motion is dropped immediately.

Discussion and House dynamics

As per Article 96(1), the Speaker cannot preside over a sitting where their own removal is under consideration. In such a scenario, the Deputy Speaker typically presides over the business of the Lok Sabha. If the Deputy Speaker is also absent or under a removal motion, a member of the Panel of Chairpersons or another member as determined by the House rules takes the Chair.

Once admitted, the resolution must be taken up for discussion within 10 days. The debate is strictly confined to the specific charges mentioned in the notice. The Speaker has the right to speak in the House and take part in the proceedings during this time.

Speaker's participation

The Speaker is not a passive bystander while a notice for his removal is under consideration. Under Article 96(2), the Speaker has the right to be present in the House, speak in and take part in the proceedings, and defend their actions against charges laid out in the resolution.

Right to vote

A crucial distinction exists on the Speaker's vote. Normally, under Article 100, the Speaker does not vote in the first instance; they only exercise a "casting vote" in the case of a tie. However, when a removal resolution is under consideration, the Speaker votes in the first instance (as a regular member). They cannot exercise a casting vote if the House is equally divided on the resolution. This prevents the Speaker from using their unique presiding power to save their own office.

Effective majority

The most significant hurdle in the Speaker's removal process is the type of majority needed to pass the resolution. Unlike a Simple Majority (majority of those present and voting) used for ordinary bills, the Speaker's removal requires an Effective Majority. The Constitution uses the phrase: "a majority of all the then members of the House." It is distinct from both a Simple Majority and an Absolute Majority.

The Calculation

- **Simple Majority:** Majority of those present and voting
- **Absolute Majority:** Majority of the total strength of the House (e.g., 273 out of 543)
- **Effective Majority:** Majority of the effective strength of the House
- **How Effective Majority works:** Total strength of the House minus vacancies divided by 2 + 1. For example, if the Lok Sabha has 5 vacancies, the effective strength is 543 - 5 = 538. The majority required would be 543/2 = 269 + 1 = 270. This high threshold ensures that the Speaker can only be removed if a clear majority of the actual sitting members lose confidence in the Chair.

Grounds for removal

M Laxmikanth in his book *Indian Polity* notes an interesting constitutional silence: the Constitution does not specify the grounds for the removal of the Speaker. Unlike the President (who can only be impeached for "violation of the Constitution") or Supreme Court Judges ("proved misbehaviour or incapacity"), the Speaker can be removed for any reason the House deems sufficient to lose its confidence. However, since the Speaker represents the House's dignity, a resolution is generally brought on grounds of:

- Partisanship or bias in conducting House business
- Failure to protect the rights of the minority/Opposition
- Procedural irregularities or unconstitutional rulings

By requiring an effective majority and a 14-day notice, the Constitution balances the need for the Speaker's accountability with the need for their independence. While the "leave of the House" acts as a procedural filter, the effective majority acts as the ultimate democratic hurdle, ensuring that the "first citizen of the House" is only removed through a broad and clear mandate of the sitting members.

SPEAKER REMOVAL VS ORDINARY MOTIONS

Feature	Removal Resolution (Art 94)	No-Confidence Motion (Art 75)
Target	Speaker (Individual)	Council of Ministers (Collective)
Notice period	14 days (Mandatory)	No Constitutional minimum
Admission support	50 members	50 members
Majority required	Effective majority	Simple majority
Speaker's vote	First instance only	Casting vote only
Presiding officer	Speaker cannot preside	Speaker presides

HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS

While several notices for removal have been filed in India's parliamentary history, no Speaker has ever been successfully removed

G V Mavalankar (1954) The first Speaker faced a motion moved by opposition members (including J B Kripalani). The motion was discussed but ultimately rejected by the House

Hukam Singh (1966) A notice was given, but it failed to result in removal

Balram Jakhar (1987) A resolution was moved but did not succeed in securing the required majority